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THE
NAVAL AND MILITARY
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
WARS OF ENGLAND,
INCLUDING
The WARS of SCOTLAND and IRELAND.

IN WHICH IS GIVEN

An accurate and lively Description of the SIEGES, BATTLES, BOMBARDMENTS, SEA-ENGAGEMENTS, EXPEDITIONS, and extensive CONQUESTS, of the BRITISH ARMS, in all Quarters of the Globe :

WITH A VARIETY OF

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V O L. V.

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T H E
NAVAL AND MILITARY
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
WARS OF ENGLAND.

OF THE WARS OF ENGLAND DURING THE
REIGN OF GEORGE I.

THE accession of the Elector of Hanover to the British throne, on the death of his cousin, Queen Anne, was brought about by a statute made in the twelfth year of William III. for limiting the succession of the crown to the next protestant heirs: for the Princess Sophia, electress-dowager of Hanover, was daughter to the Queen of Bohemia, who, before her marriage with the Elector Palatine, was styled the Princess Elizabeth of Great Britain, daughter to James VI. of Scotland and I. of England; in whom united all the hereditary claims to the crown of these realms. But, the Princess Sophia dying a very little while before the queen, George-Lewis, elector of Hanover, her son, became heir of this crown on the demise of Queen Anne, and was accordingly called to the succession, in the manner directed by another statute, passed in the ninth year of her majesty's reign. For, by that law, the administration of the government, immediately on the queen's death, devolved on seven persons named in the act, in conjunction with as many

as the successor should think fit to appoint in the manner directed by that law.

On the 17th of August, 1714, the Earl of Berkley sailed, with a squadron of sixteen men of war, and six yachts, for Holland, having on-board the Earl of Dorset, in order to attend his majesty. There he was joined by eight ships of the States-general, under Rear-admiral Coperan; and, to secure the coasts and the channel, Admiral Wager was sent down to Portsmouth, and Sir Thomas Hardy to Plymouth, to equip such ships as were fit for service.

No tumult, no commotion, rose against the accession of the new king; and this gives a strong proof that the tories, had they really intended to exclude him, never took any rational measures to accomplish their purpose.

The king first landed at Greenwich, where he was received by the Duke of Northumberland, captain of the life-guard, and the lords of the regency. From the landing-place he walked to his house in the park, accompanied by a great number of the nobility, and other persons of distinction, who expected to make their court in this reign in consequence of their turbulence and opposition to the reigning party in the last.

George I. was 54 years old when he ascended the British throne. His mature age, his sagacity and experience, his numerous alliances, and the general tranquillity of Europe, all contributed to establish his interests and promise him a peaceable and happy reign.

His virtues, though not shining, were solid; and he was of a very different disposition from the Stuart family, whom he succeeded. These were known to a proverb for leaving their friends in extremity; George, on the contrary, soon after his arrival in England, was heard to say, "My maxim is, never to abandon my friends, to do justice to all the world, and to fear no man." To these qualities of resolution and perseverance, he joined great application to business. One
fault,

fault, however, with regard to England, remained behind: he studied the interests of the kingdom he had left more than of those he came to govern.

The new king soon discovered his inclination to support those who had raised him to the throne, that is, the whig party. When he retired to his bed-chamber, after his first landing, he sent for such of the nobility as had distinguished themselves by their zeal for his succession. He expressed the greatest regard for the Duke of Marlborough, just then arrived from the continent, whither he had been driven by the violence of the tories. The same friendship he professed for the other leaders of the whigs; but the tories found themselves excluded from the royal favour. The king did not seem sensible that the monarch of a faction rules but one-half of his subjects. It was his misfortune, and consequently that of the nation, that he was hemmed round by men who soured him with all their own interests and prejudices. The whigs, while they pretended to secure the crown for the king, were using all their art to confirm their own interests, extend their connections, and give laws to their sovereign. An instantaneous change was made in all the offices of trust, honour, or advantage. The names of the contending parties were changed into those of Hanoverians and Jacobites. The former governed the senate and court, oppressed whom they would, bound the lower orders of people by severe laws, and kept them at a distance by vile distinctions.

In consequence of these partialities, the highest contents were raised through the whole kingdom. The tories or Jacobites raised the most terrible outcries; and, had the pretender been a man of any judgment or abilities, a fair opportunity was now offered him for striking a decisive blow. Instead of this, he continued a calm spectator on the continent, and only sent over his emissaries to disperse ineffectual manifestoes and delude the unwary. In these papers he observed,

served, that the late queen had intentions of calling him to the crown. He expostulated with his people upon the injustice they had done themselves in proclaiming a foreign prince for their sovereign, contrary to the laws of the country, that gave him alone the real claim. Copies of a printed address were sent to the dukes of Shrewsbury, Marlborough, Argyle, and other noblemen of the first distinction; vindicating his right to the crown, and complaining of the injustice of his people. Yet, though he still complained of their conduct, he never took any step to correct his own, or remove that obstacle by which his father had lost his throne. He still continued to profess the truest regard to the Catholic religion; and, instead of concealing his sentiments on that head, gloried in his principles.

But, however much the popish religion was at that time hated in England, the principles of the dissenters were not in the least more agreeable to the generality. The tories affirmed, that under a whig administration heresy and impiety were daily gaining ground. The lower orders of the clergy joined in these complaints, and pointed out several tracts published in favour of Arianism and Socinianism. The ministry not only refused to punish the delinquents, but silenced the clergy themselves, and forbade their future disputations on these topics:—The parliament was now dissolved, and another called by a very extraordinary proclamation. In this the king complained of the evil designs of men disaffected to his succession; and, of their having misrepresented his conduct and principles. He expressed his hopes, that his subjects would send up to parliament the fittest persons to redress the present disorders. He intreated that they would elect such in particular as had expressed a firm attachment to the protestant succession when it was in danger. In the election of this important parliament, uncommon vigour was exerted on both sides; but, by dint of the
monied

monied interest that prevailed in corporations, and the activity of the ministry, a great majority of whigs was returned both in England and Scotland.

The new parliament met at Westminster, March the 17th, 1715, and, on the first of April, they came to a resolution, to allow ten thousand seamen, at four pounds a-month; and, on the 9th of May following, granted 135,574l. 3s. 6d. for the half-pay of sea-officers; 197,896l. 17s. 6d. for the ordinary of the navy; and 237,277l. for the extraordinary repairs of the navy, and rebuilding of ships. These large sums were thought necessary, because, at this juncture, the fleet of Great Britain was very much decayed; and, it was foreseen that, notwithstanding the peace so lately concluded, new disputes were likely to arise, which might require fresh armaments.

A misunderstanding had for some time subsisted between Sweden and the maritime powers: the Swedes complaining that Great Britain and Holland furnished the czar with ships and warlike stores; in consequence of which, the Swedish privateers took many ships in the Baltic belonging to the English and Dutch merchants. The ministers of England and the States general had presented memorials to the regency of Sweden; but, not being able to procure redress, both states resolved to protect their trade by force of arms. Sir John Norris, admiral of the blue, was appointed to this service, with a fleet of twenty sail, and under him Sir Thomas Hardy, rear-admiral of the blue; eighteen of these were ships of the line, together with the Mermaid frigate, of thirty-two guns, and the Drake sloop, which carried sixteen. On the 18th of May, this fleet sailed to the Baltic, and arrived at the Sound on the 10th day of June following, where it joined the Dutch squadron. The combined fleet then took the merchantmen of both countries under their protection, and convoyed them to their respective ports. The English admiral then dispatched an
express

express to Stockholm, to procure from the regency of Sweden a categorical answer concerning the measures they meant to pursue, offering, at the same time, to enter into a negociation for determining the disputes which had arisen between the two nations. The answer he received from the court of Sweden was so vague and unsatisfactory, that our admiral determined no longer to suspend his operations.

About the middle of August, a Danish fleet of twenty ships of the line, and a Russian squadron, joined Sir John Norris. The Czar Peter was then at Copenhagen, where this confederate fleet was assembled. As this prince intended to sail in one of his own ships, he was complimented with the chief command of the whole armament; under him Sir John Norris commanded the Vanguard; the czar was in the centre of the line of battle; the Danish admiral, Count Gueldenlow, commanded the rear; and the Dutch commodore, with his squadron, and five British men of war, proceeded, with forty-six merchant-ships which had just then arrived from England, for the ports to which they were destined in the Baltic. The Swedes were, at that time, powerful at sea, although far from able to face so large a fleet. They were therefore obliged to shelter themselves in the harbour of Carlscroon, so that the confederates remained undisputed masters on the Baltic. In the middle of November, a violent storm attacked the grand fleet near Copenhagen, in which the August, a sixty-gun ship, was lost, and likewise the Garland, of twenty-four guns. Soon after, the English and Dutch ships were called home.

While a part of our navy was thus employed in the Baltic, the disaffected party in England and Scotland were exerting themselves in the cause of the pretender. The ministry, at the same time, were proceeding with great activity against all such as were concerned in making the peace of Utrecht. Prior, who had been
sent

sent out ambassador to the court of France by Queen Anne, was recalled, and the Earl of Stair appointed to that embassy, with particular instructions to hasten the demolition of the port and fortifications of Dunkirk, and the canal of Mardyke, which that minister was extremely active in accomplishing. Lord Bolingbroke had been removed from his post of secretary, and the Dukes of Shrewsbury and Somerset, and Lord Cowper, sealed up all the doors of his office. Mr. Walpole acquainted the house of commons, that notwithstanding the endeavours which had been used to prevent a discovery of the late mismanagements, by conveying away several papers from the secretary's office, yet the government had sufficient evidence left, to prove the late ministry the most corrupt that ever sat at the helm. Hereupon Lord Bolingbroke, who had hitherto appeared in public as usual, and had spoken in the house of lords with great freedom and confidence, thought it now high time to save himself by flight. He therefore retired to France.

On the 9th of April, 1715, General Stanhope delivered to the house of commons fourteen volumes, in which were contained all the papers relating to the late negotiations of peace and commerce, as well as to the cessation of arms, the consideration of which was referred to a select committee, of which Mr. Walpole was chosen chairman. On the 9th of June, Mr. Walpole informed the house that the report was ready to be made, and in the mean time moved, that a warrant might be issued by the speaker for the apprehending Mr. Matthew Prior and Mr. Thomas Harley, who, being at that time in the house, were immediately taken into custody. Then he read the report, ranged under these different heads; The clandestine negotiation with Monsieur Menager; the extraordinary measures pursued to form the congress at Utrecht; the trifling of the French plenipotentiaries, by the connivance of the British ministers; the negotiation about

the renunciation of the Spanish monarchy; the fatal suspension of arms; the seizure of Ghent and Burges, in order to distress the allies and favour the French; the Duke of Ormond's acting in concert with the French general; Lord Bolingbroke's journey to France to negotiate a separate peace; Mr. Prior's and the Duke of Shrewsbury's negotiations in France; the precipitate conclusion of the peace at Utrecht. He then impeached Henry lord viscount Bolingbroke of high treason, and other high crimes and misdemeanors. Then Lord Coningsby, standing up, said, "The worthy chairman has impeached the hand, but I impeach the head: he has impeached the clerk, and I the justice: he has impeached the scholar, and I the master. I impeach Robert earl of Oxford and Mortimer of high-treason, and other crimes and misdemeanors." To which the house assented without a division. The Duke of Ormond was a few days afterwards impeached; but, to avoid the consequences that might ensue, retired out of the kingdom.

The violence of the commons was answered with equal violence without doors. Tumults became every day more frequent, and every tumult served only to increase the severity of the legislature. They now passed an act, declaring, that if any persons, to the number of twelve, unlawfully assembled, should continue together one hour after being required to disperse by a justice of peace, or other officer, and after hearing the act against riots read in public, they should be deemed guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy. This was considered as a very severe act, and one of the greatest restrictions on the liberty of the subject that had passed during the century; as by it all meetings of the people, either for the purposes of amusement or redress, are rendered criminal, if it shall please any magistrate to consider them as such.

These vindictive proceedings excited the indignation of the people, who perceived that the avenues of
royal

royal favour were closed to all but a faction. A rebellion commenced in Scotland, where, to their other grievances, they joined that of the union, which they were taught to consider as an oppression. The Earl of Mar, assembling three hundred of his vassals in the Highlands, proclaimed the pretender at Castleton; and, setting up his standard at Braemar, assumed the title of *lieutenant-general of his majesty's forces*. To second these attempts, two vessels arrived from France with arms, ammunition, and a number of officers, together with assurances to the earl, that the pretender himself would shortly come over to head his own forces. In consequence of this promise, the earl soon found himself at the head of ten thousand men, well armed and provided. He secured the pass of Tay at Perth, where his head-quarters were established; and made himself master of the whole province of Fife, and all the sea-coast on that side of the frith of Forth. He marched from thence to Dumblain, as if he had intended to cross the Forth at Stirling-bridge: but there he was informed that the Duke of Argyle, who, on this occasion, was appointed commander in chief of all the forces in North Britain, was advancing against him from Stirling with all his own clans, assisted by some troops from Ireland. Upon this he thought proper at first to retreat; but, being soon after joined by some of the clans under the Earl of Seaforth, and others under General Gordon, an experienced officer, who had signalized himself in the Russian service, he resolved to face the enemy, and directed his march towards the south.

The Duke of Argyle, apprised of his intentions, and, at any rate, willing to prove his attachment to the present government, resolved to give him battle in the neighbourhood of Dumblain, though his forces did not amount to half the number of the enemy. In the morning, therefore, he drew up his army, which did not exceed three thousand five hundred men, in order

of battle; but he soon found himself greatly outflanked by the insurgents. The duke, therefore, perceiving the earl make attempts to surround him, was obliged to alter his disposition, which, on account of the scarcity of general officers, was not done so expeditiously as to be finished before the rebels began the attack. The left wing of the duke's army received the centre of the enemy, and supported the first charge without shrinking. It seemed even for a while victorious, and the Earl of Clanronald was killed. But Glengary, who was second in command, undertook to inspire his intimidated forces with courage; and, waving his bonnet, cried out several times, *Revenge!* This animated the rebel-troops to such a degree, that they followed him close to the points of the enemy's bayonets, and got within their guard. A total rout began to ensue of that wing of the royal army; and General Wetham, their commander, flying full speed to Stirling, gave out that the rebels were completely victorious. In the mean time, Argyle, who commanded in person on the right, attacked the left of the enemy; and drove them before him two miles, though they often faced about, and attempted to rally. Having thus entirely broken that wing, and driven them over the river Allan, he returned back to the field of battle; where, to his great mortification, he found the enemy victorious, and patiently waiting for the assault. However, instead of renewing the engagement, both armies continued to gaze at each other, neither caring to begin the attack. In the evening both parties drew off, and both claimed the victory. All the advantages of a victory, however, belonged to Argyle. He had interrupted the progress of the enemy; and, in their circumstances, delay was defeat. In fact, the Earl of Mar soon found his losses and disappointments increase. The castle of Inverness, of which he was in possession, was delivered up by Lord Lovat, who had hitherto professed to act

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in the interest of the pretender. The Marquis of Tullibardine forsook the earl, in order to defend his own part of the country; and many of the clans, seeing no likelihood of coming to a second engagement, returned quietly home.

In the mean time, the rebellion was still more unsuccessfully prosecuted in England. From the time the pretender had undertaken this wild project in Paris, in which the Duke of Ormond and Lord Bolingbroke were engaged, Lord Stair, the English ambassador there, had penetrated all his designs, and sent faithful accounts of all his measures and of all his adherents to the ministry at home. Upon the first rumour, therefore, of an insurrection, they imprisoned several lords and gentlemen of whom they had a suspicion. But these precautions were not able to stop the insurrection in the western countries, where it was already begun. All their preparations, however, were weak and ill conducted; every measure was betrayed to government as soon as projected, and many revolts were repressed in the very outset. The university of Oxford was treated with great severity on this occasion. Major-general Pepper, with a strong detachment of dragoons, took possession of the city at day-break, declaring, that he would instantly shoot any of the students who should presume to appear without the limits of their respective colleges.

The insurrection in the northern counties came to greater maturity. In the month of October, 1715, the Earl of Derwentwater and Mr. Forster took the field with a body of horse, and, being joined by some gentlemen from the borders of Scotland, proclaimed the pretender. Their first attempt was to seize upon Newcastle, in which they had many friends; but, finding the gates shut against them, they retired to Hexham. To oppose these, General Carpenter was detached by government with a body of nine hundred men, and an engagement was hourly expected. The
rebels

rebels had two methods by which they might have conducted themselves with prudence and safety. The one was to march directly into the western parts of Scotland, and there join General Gordon, who commanded a strong body of Highlanders. The other was to cross the Tweed, and boldly attack General Carpenter, whose forces did not exceed their own. From the infatuation attendant on the measures of that party, neither of these counsels was pursued. They took the route to Jedburgh, where they hoped to leave Carpenter on one side, and penetrate into England by the western border. This was the effectual means to cut themselves off either from retreat or assistance. A party of Highlanders, who had joined them by this time, at first refused to accompany them in such a desperate incursion, and one half of them actually returned to their own country. At Brampton, Mr. Forster opened his commission of general, which had been sent him by the Earl of Mar, and there he proclaimed the pretender. They continued their march to Penrith, where the body of the militia that was assembled to oppose them fled at their appearance. From Penrith they proceeded, by the way of Kendal and Lancaster, to Preston, of which place they took possession without any resistance. But this was the last stage of their ill-advised excursion; for General Wills, at the head of seven thousand men, came up to attack them; and, from his activity there was no escaping. They now, therefore, began to raise barricadoes about the town, and to put the place in a posture of defence, repulsing the first attacks of the royal army with success. Next day, however, Wills was reinforced, and the town was invested on all sides. In this deplorable situation, Forster hoped to capitulate with the general; and accordingly sent Colonel Oxburgh, who had been taken prisoner, with a trumpeter to propose a capitulation. This, however, Wills refused; alleging, that he would not treat with rebels,
and

and that the only favour they had to expect, was to be spared from immediate slaughter. These were hard terms, but no better could be obtained. They accordingly laid down their arms, and were put under a strong guard. All the noblemen and leaders were secured, and a few of their officers tried for deserting from the royal army, and shot by order of a court-martial. The common men were imprisoned at Chester and Liverpool; the noblemen and considerable officers were sent to London, and led through the streets, pinioned and bound together, to intimidate their party.

Though the schemes of the pretender appear to have been foolishly enough conducted in Britain, yet they were much more so in France. Bolingbroke had been made his secretary at Paris, and Ormond his prime minister. But these statesmen quickly found that nothing could be done in favour of his cause. The King of France, who had ever espoused the interest of the abdicated family, was just dead; and the Duke of Orleans, who succeeded in the government of the kingdom, was averse to lending the pretender any assistance. His party, however, which was composed of the lowest and the most ignorant exiles from the British dominions, affected the utmost confidence, and boasted of a certainty of success. The deepest secrets of his cabinet, and all his intended measures, were handed about in coffee-houses by persons of the lowest rank, both in fortune and abilities. Subaltern officers resolved to be his generals; and even prostitutes were entrusted to manage his negotiations. Little, therefore, could be expected from such assistants and such councils.

Though by this time the pretender might easily have seen that his affairs were desperate; yet, with his usual infatuation, he resolved to hazard his person among his friends in Scotland, at a time when such a measure was too late for success. Passing, therefore, through
France

France in disguise, and embarking in a small vessel at Dunkirk, he arrived, after a voyage of a few days, on the coasts of Scotland, with only six gentlemen in his train. He passed unknown through Aberdeen to Feteress, where he was met by the Earl of Mar, and about thirty noblemen and gentlemen of the first quality. There he was solemnly proclaimed; and his declaration, dated at Comerey, was printed and dispersed. He went from thence to Dundee, where he made a public entry; and in two days more he arrived at Scoon, where he intended to have the ceremony of his coronation performed. He ordered thanksgivings to be made for his safe arrival; he enjoined the ministers to pray for him in their churches; and, without the smallest share of power, went through the ceremonies of royalty, which drew an air of ridicule on all his conduct. Having thus spent some time in unimportant parade, he resolved to abandon the enterprise with the same levity with which it was undertaken. Having made a speech to his grand council; he informed them of his want of money, arms, and ammunition, for undertaking a campaign, and therefore deplored that he was obliged to leave them. He once more embarked on-board a small French ship that lay in the harbour of Montrose, accompanied with several lords, his adherents; and, in five days, arrived at Graveline.

General Gordon, who was left commander in chief of the forces, with the assistance of Earl Mareschal, proceeded at their head to Aberdeen, where he secured three vessels to sail northward, which took on-board such persons as intended to make their escape to the continent. He then continued his march through the Highlands, and quietly dismissed his forces as he went forward. This retreat was made with such expedition, that the Duke of Argyle, with all his activity, could never overtake his rear, which consisted of one thousand horse.

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The rebellion being ended, the law was put in force with all its terrors; and the prisons of London were crowded with those deluded persons, whom the ministry seemed resolved not to pardon. The commons, in their address to the crown, declared they would prosecute, in the most rigorous manner, the authors of the late rebellion; and their measures were as vindictive as their resolutions were speedy. The Earls of Derwentwater, Nithsdale, Carnwath, and Wintown, the Lords Widrington, Kenmuir, and Nairne, were impeached: and, upon pleading guilty, (except Lord Wintown, who stood trial, but was convicted,) they all received sentence of death. No intreaties could prevail upon the ministry to spare these unhappy men. The house of lords even presented an address to the throne for mercy, but without effect; the king only answered, that on this, as on all other occasions, he would act as he thought most consistent with the dignity of the crown and safety of the people. Orders were accordingly dispatched for executing the Lords Derwentwater, Nithsdale, and Kenmuir, immediately; the rest were respited to a farther time. Nithsdale, however, had the good fortune to escape in woman's clothes that were brought him by his mother the night before that intended for his execution. Derwentwater and Kenmuir were brought to the scaffold on Towerhill at the time appointed. Both underwent their sentence with calm intrepidity, and seemingly less moved than those who beheld them.

An act of parliament was next made for trying the private prisoners in London, and not in Lancashire, where they were taken in arms. This was considered, by some of the best lawyers, as an alteration of the ancient constitution of the kingdom, by which it was supposed, that every prisoner should be tried in the place where the offence was committed, as a jury of neighbours would be best qualified to enter into the nature of the offence. In the beginning of April,

commissioners for trying the rebels met in the court of common pleas, when the bills were found against Mr. Forster, Mr. Mackintosh, and twenty of their confederates. Forster escaped from Newgate, and reached the continent in safety; the rest pleaded not guilty. Pits, the keeper of Newgate, being suspected of having connived at Forster's escape, was tried for his life, but acquitted. After this, Mackintosh, and several other prisoners, broke from Newgate, after having mastered the keeper and turnkey, and disarmed the centinel. The court proceeded to the trial of those that remained; four or five were hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Tyburn. The judges appointed to try the rebels at Liverpool found a considerable number of them guilty of high treason. Two-and-twenty were executed at Manchester and Preston; about one thousand experienced the king's mercy, to be transported to North America. Of those who suffered death for high treason about this time, the case of James Sheppard, a boy about eighteen years of age, is so very remarkable, that the reader will excuse our introducing it in this place. This young man called at the house of Mr. Leak, a non-juror, on the 24th of January, 1717, and left a letter for him, to the following effect: "Sir, From the many discontents visible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be settled on his throne, without much loss of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propose, that if any gentlemen will pay for my passage into Italy, and if our friends will intrust one so young with letters of invitation to his majesty, I will, on his arrival, smite the usurper in his palace. In this confusion, if sufficient forces may be raised, his majesty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himself till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it presumptuous to hope that this may succeed, if we consider how easy it is to cut the thread of human life;

how

how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. But we will suppose the worst, that I am seized and by torture examined. Now, that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy, leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his majesty's abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But, be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the holy sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design. JAMES SHEPPARD.' On Mr. Leak's return home in the evening, he opened the letter, and, having read the contents to himself, he told his family that it was a wicked and villainous letter, and, reading it to them, he threw it into the fire and burnt it. Having done this, he went up into his study, and, reflecting on the matter, he suspected that some malicious person had sent it with a view to have his house afterwards searched, and, finding it there, to fix the odium upon him: whereupon he came to the resolution of acquainting Sir John Fryer with the affair, which he did the next morning, when Sir John told him he ought to have seized the person who brought the letter; to which he replied, that he remembered the person had promised to call again on the Monday following; which he did, and Mr. Leak asked him if his name was James Sheppard, and if he left a letter for him on the Friday before; to which he replied, Yes; whereupon Mr. Leak sent for a constable, and took him before Sir John Fryer, to whom he likewise owned that his name was James Sheppard, and that he had delivered such a letter. Then he asked him if he had a copy of that letter; to which he answered, he had no copy of it about him; but that if he had pen, ink, and paper, he could soon

write a copy of it, having it in his memory. Having ordered pen, ink, and paper, to be brought, the young man sat down in the room, and, having written the letter, brought it to him; but had not put his name to it. Sir John bade him put his name to it, which he did with a great deal of readiness, and afterwards read it with much presence of mind and calmness of temper, telling him he did believe that to be a true copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leak's house the Friday before, and that, if it differed at all, it was but in some very few words. This was produced in court on his trial. He was asked whom he meant by the *king*; he answered, the same person whom you call the pretender. And also whom he meant by the *usurper*; he replied, the same person whom you call King George; and all the while he was as much composed in his mind as possible. Upon this expression in the writing, "But we will suppose the worst, that I am by torture examined;" being asked whether he had so well weighed the matter as to undergo such torture for the sake of the pretender; he replied, he had well weighed the matter, and could undergo it. And being desired to read over the copy of the letter he had written before Sir John Fryer, and to consider it well, if it were right, that no false construction might be put upon any of his words; he read it to himself, and afterwards aloud, and owned it was his writing, and a true copy, as near as could be, of what he had written in the letter delivered to Mr. Leak's servant. He said, that he never had any acquaintance with Mr. Leak, nor knowledge of him, any other way than that he was a non-juror; that he had three years ago resolved upon the design to assassinate the king, and did determine to put it in execution when opportunity offered. — These depositions having been given by the evidence for the king, the prisoner was called upon by the court to make his defence; upon which he answered, that he acknowledged the truth of what had been

been deposed against him; saying, that he meant it, that he intended it, and did not think there was any harm in it, or any guilt in the fact, if committed. He was presently found guilty of high treason. And he being asked, as is usual before the receiving of sentence, what he had to say why judgment should not pass upon him according to law, replied, "He could not hope for mercy from a prince he would not own." He was executed on the 17th of March, 1717.

The rebellion being thus extinguished, the danger of the state was made a pretence for continuing the parliament beyond the term fixed for its dissolution. An act, therefore, was made by their own authority, repealing that by which they were to be dissolved every third year, and the term of their duration was extended to seven years. This attempt in any delegated body of people to increase their own power by extending it, is contrary to the first principles of justice. If it was right to extend their duration to seven years, they might also perpetuate their authority; and thus cut off even the shadow of a nomination. The bill, however, passed both houses, and all objections to it were considered as disaffection. This parliament, which re-assembled on the 9th of January, 1716, granted very large supplies for the year, viz. ten thousand seamen, at the rate of four pounds per month; the sum of 233,849l. 19s. 6d. for the ordinary of the navy; and 23,623l. for the extraordinary repairs of the navy.

At this time some of the piratical states in Barbary having broke the peace, Admiral Baker, who had the command of the English squadron in the Mediterranean, had orders to bring them to reason; which he easily accomplished; but the Saltee rovers still did great mischief, and that with impunity; for their ships were so small, and drew so little water, that our men of war were seldom able to come up with them. At last, Captain Delgarno, one of the most active officers

cers in the navy, in his majesty's ship the *Hind*, of twenty guns only, came up with one of their best men of war of twenty-four guns, and, after an obstinate engagement of two hours and a half, obliged her to strike; but soon after she unfortunately sunk, and all her crew, except thirty-eight hands, perished: this, with the loss of another vessel of eight guns, and two more of sixteen guns each, which were forced on shore by his majesty's ship the *Bridgewater*, delivered, in a great measure, the English commerce in the Mediterranean from the interruptions given it by these pirates.

In the month of June, 1716, his majesty went over to Holland, escorted by an English squadron, and from thence continued his journey by land to Hanover, where the disturbances in the north made his presence at that time particularly necessary, and where he continued the rest of the year; at the close of which, Admiral Aylmer sailed with a squadron to Holland to escort him home. The king, whilst he continued on the continent, negotiated a treaty between the regent of France and the States of Holland; the pretender was no longer suffered to reside in France or Lorrain, but obliged to remove to the other side of the Alps. The treaty contained a mutual guarantee of all the places possessed by the contracting powers; of the protestant succession to the throne of Great Britain, and of the Duke of Orleans to the throne of France, in case the infant king should die without issue male; a defensive alliance was likewise entered into hereby, and the proportion of ships and forces, to be furnished by that power which should be disturbed at home or invaded from abroad, was specified.

The king was not so successful in adjusting the differences which had arisen between him and Charles, King of Sweden. Some time before, a treaty had been concluded between the Elector of Hanover and
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the King of Denmark, by which the duchies of Bremen and Verden, which the Danes had taken from the Swedes, were made over to the elector, for a valuable consideration, and on condition that he should immediately declare war against Sweden. The elector, a few weeks after his accession to the British throne, took possession of these duchies, and published a declaration of war in his German dominions. Overtures were made to the King of Sweden to put an end to this quarrel; but Charles made the restitution of Bremen and Verden the essential preliminary to a peace, and the other as resolutely persisted in retaining them.

It has been already shewn, that this dispute was very injurious to the trade from England to the Baltic; and perhaps it may be thought that this unnecessary quarrel, which exposed these kingdoms to imminent danger, whilst they were no ways concerned in the dispute, is one of the heaviest imputations on the conduct of this intelligent prince.

Charles XII. determined to express his resentment against King George, by lending his assistance to promote the interest of the Chevalier de St. George, and, supported by so determined and indefatigable a prince, the cause of that fugitive was likely to prove more successful than when backed by the feeble efforts of the court of Versailles, who seemed to have regarded the Stuart line in no other manner than as they furnished the means for keeping up the party-divisions and animosities, which had become, as it were, constitutional in England, and never exerted themselves strenuously to restore that race to the throne of their ancestors. When the king returned from the continent, he informed the council of the dangerous designs which were formed against the tranquillity of the nation, by the Swedish monarch; in consequence of which a warrant was issued for seizing the papers, as well as the person, of Count Gyllenbourg, the Swedish minister at
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the court of London, which was accordingly done. This unprecedented step spread a general alarm among the foreign ministers, until they were assured by government, that the measure was taken on account of the count's being concerned in a plot against the state, and that no act of his, as an ambassador, had drawn on him this treatment. The good understanding which now subsisted between Great Britain and the United States procured Baron Goertz, the Swedish resident at the Hague, to be seized in like manner. Great discoveries were made by the papers and dispatches which were found in the possession of these ministers; and all such as related to the intended invasion were made public, and served fully to justify the means which were used in procuring them.

The parliament met on the 20th day of February, 1717, when this transaction was laid before the commons. The house shewed the warmest resentment at the insolence of Charles, and passed a bill to prohibit all commerce with Sweden. A grand fleet was formed, consisting of twenty-two ships of the line, besides frigates, which was to proceed to the Baltic, under the command of Sir George Byng. This fleet sailed on the 30th of March for Copenhagen.

Soon after the sailing of Sir George Byng, the king sent a message to the house of commons, signifying a desire that his parliament would enable him to secure his kingdoms against the danger which threatened them from Sweden, by granting him a supply. This produced a warm debate, but at length 250,000*l.* were voted, to enable his majesty to concert such measures with foreign princes and states, as may prevent any charge and apprehension from the designs of Sweden for the future.

The Earl of Oxford had been near two years a prisoner in the Tower, and now took the favourable opportunity of this dissention among his enemies, to petition for his trial. This was accordingly brought on
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in Westminster-hall; Lord-chancellor Cowper being appointed high steward. The earl was brought from the Tower by water, and conducted to the bar on the 24th of June; when Mr. Hampden, one of the managers for the commons, recapitulated the charge against him in a long speech; and Sir Joseph Jekyll was proceeding to make good the first article, when the Lord Harcourt made a motion that the commons should not be permitted to proceed against the earl, in making good the articles for high crimes and misdemeanors, till judgment was first given upon the article of high-treason; and, after a long debate, this was carried in the affirmative. Hence arose a difference between the two houses; the commons resolving to proceed in their own way, and the lords as strenuously adhering to theirs. At length, in the beginning of July, the lords proceeded to the trial; and three proclamations were made, for the Earl of Oxford's accusers to appear and make good the articles of his impeachment; and, nobody appearing, all the peers who were present unanimously acquitted his lordship, not only of high treason, but of the charge of high crimes and misdemeanors.

Sir George Byng arrived in the road of Copenhagen on the 11th day of April; the next day he had an audience of the king, and assisted at several conferences, which were held in the succeeding week, in order to settle the operations by sea, and the command of the confederate fleet, in case the several squadrons should join. Sir George next detached five ships of the line to cruise in the Categat, between Gottenburgh and the Point of Schagen, to cover the trade from the Swedish privateers. The Danish cruisers being likewise employed for the same purpose, the passage was so effectually secured, that no ships could pass out of that port. The arrival of this fleet in the Baltic put an effectual stop to the great projects formed by the Swedes, who thereupon laid aside their de-

sign of embarking troops at Carlscroon. Sir George appointed a detachment from his fleet to cruise off Gottenburg, the command of which was given to Captain Lestock, of the Panther. On the 30th of April he took a Swedish privateer dogger, of six guns and seventy-two men, commanded by St. Leger, who had before taken an English packet. The same day he retook a Dutch-hoy, which the Swedes had made prize of the day before; and the next day he took the privateer that had captured her. Several other small Swedish privateers fell into their hands.

When the season of the year began to advance, as no enemy appeared, Sir George Byng determined on returning home with the chief part of the fleet, and accordingly, on the 2d of November, he passed the Sound, with nine English men of war, three frigates, and three vessels of small burthen, leaving behind him six men of war to act in conjunction with the Danish fleet; on the 15th of the same month he arrived at the mouth of the Thames.

At the representation of the French minister residing here, who had express instructions from the Duke of Orleans for that purpose, Count Gyllenbourg was set at liberty, as also Baron Goertz, who had been confined in Holland.

The commerce of the West-India islands was now greatly annoyed, by a number of daring and insolent pirates who infested those seas, and who, having possessed themselves of some of the Bahama-islands, particularly Harbour island and Providence, sallied forth from thence, and even carried their depredations northward along the coast of the American continent. On the 5th of September a proclamation was issued, offering a free pardon to all such West-Indian freebooters, as should surrender themselves within a twelvemonth, for all piracies which they should have committed before the 5th day of January preceding. After the expiration of the time of surrender limited
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in this proclamation, a reward was offered to any of his majesty's officers, by sea or land, who should take a pirate, upon his being legally convicted: for a captain they were entitled to one hundred pounds; for any other officer, from a lieutenant down to a gunner, forty pounds; for an inferior officer thirty pounds; and, for every private man twenty pounds. Any pirate delivering up a captain or commodore, was entitled to two hundred pounds reward upon his conviction.

The prohibition laid on the trade to Sweden was severely felt by the merchants, who loudly complained of the measure pursued by administration against that kingdom. The Dutch, although leagued in the quarrel, had the address to throw off all the inconveniences resulting from it; their trade with Sweden was not only kept open, but greatly augmented; for they now became the carriers for Great Britain, who was obliged to receive all the products of that nation by the way of Holland, and on-board of Dutch shipping.

The parliament met on the 21st of November, and soon after voted ten thousand seamen, and 224,837*l*. for the ordinary of the navy. On the 17th of March, 1718, the king sent a message to the house, informing them that as he was then engaging in several negotiations, of the utmost concern to the welfare of these kingdoms, and the tranquillity of Europe, and having lately received information from abroad, which makes him judge that it would give weight to his endeavours if a naval force be employed where it shall be necessary, he thinks fit to acquaint his commons therewith, not doubting, but that in case he should be obliged, at this critical juncture, to exceed the number of men granted this year, for the sea service, the house will, at their next meeting, provide for such excess. Hereupon an address was voted unanimously, promising to make good all such engagements as might be found necessary to be made.

A large fleet was put into commission, and every thing indicated hostile intentions in the ministry. This drew from the Spanish ambassador a memorial, expressing the alarm which such proceedings had given to the court of Madrid; in answer to which he was informed, that it was not the intention of his Britannic majesty to conceal the destination of the armament which was then assembled. The king therefore declared, that he meant to send Sir George Byng therewith into the Mediterranean, in order to maintain the neutrality of Italy against any power that should attempt to violate it.

Whilst the misunderstanding between Great Britain and Sweden continued, the Czar of Muscovy conceived a secret disgust at the conduct of King George. Wismar had been taken by the allies. This place Peter intended to bestow on his niece, who had been lately married to the Duke of Mecklenburgh, Schwerin; he had therefore sent a large body of troops to assist in reducing it, but it had surrendered before they arrived, and the Russians were not admitted into the garrison. What farther tended to displease this monarch was, that, when Gyllenburg's letters were published in London, some passages seemed to favour the supposition of the czar being privy to the conspiracy. His minister at the court of London presented a long memorial, complaining that the king had caused to be printed the malicious insinuations of his enemies, and denied his master having the least concern in the design of the Swedish king. It then proceeded to charge the court of England with having privately treated of a separate peace with Charles of Sweden, and even with having promised to assist him against the czar, on condition that he would relinquish his pretensions to Bremen and Verden. It concluded with expressing a hearty desire to re establish that good understanding which had long subsisted between England and Russia, and that the two empires might cordially unite in prosecuting

secuting the war against the common enemy. This memorial was replied to by the King of Great Britain, and the sentiments of the two monarchs remained the same. But Peter, who generally negotiated in person, went to the court of Versailles, where he concluded a treaty of friendship with the Duke of Orleans, regent of France. He then proceeded to Amsterdam, and held private conferences with Goertz, the Swedish minister, who undertook to adjust all differences between the czar and his master within three months; and Peter engaged to suspend all operations against Sweden until that term should be expired. A congress was opened at Abo, between the Swedish and Russian ministers; but the conferences were afterwards removed to Aland. By this convention, the czar obliged himself to assist Charles in the conquest of Norway, and they promised to unite all their forces against the King of Great Britain, should he presume to interpose. Both were incensed against that prince; and one part of their design was to raise the pretender to the throne of England. Baron Goertz set out from Aland for Frederickstadt, in Norway, with the plan of peace; but, before he arrived, Charles was killed by a cannon-ball from the town, as he visited the trenches, on the 13th of November, 1718. The death of Charles was fortunate for England. Sweden was now obliged to submit: while the czar, the King of Denmark, and the Elector of Hanover, kept possession of what they had acquired in the course of the war. The king had not yet received the investiture of these duchies; and, until that should be procured, it was necessary to espouse with warmth the interests of the emperor. This was another source of misunderstanding between Great Britain and Spain.

The emperor had engaged in a war against the Porte as an ally of the Venetians, whom the Turks had attacked and driven from the Morea; and, in consequence, he sent Prince Eugene in May, 1717, at the head

head of a fine army, consisting of 100,000 men, to besiege Belgrade. The Turks foresaw his design, and reinforced the garrison to 30,000 men, and in other respects made it as they thought impregnable. Count Palfi was chosen to direct the siege, and his highness undertook to cover him against any attempts of the Turkish army, which lay in the neighbourhood, consisting of upwards of 150,000 men, commanded by the grand vizier. As Prince Eugene and Count Palfi were prosecuting this important undertaking, the grand vizier approached the prince's camp with his whole army, and, surrounding all the eminences, inclosed the imperial forces between himself and the town. The Turks, it was thought, would have no occasion to continue their fire, though it annoyed the prince greatly, and even obliged him to change his quarters, because a contagious disease was fiercely fighting for them against the imperialists. Prince Eugene, though he changed his quarters, kept only upon the defensive. At length, however, finding his own army diminished daily, and that it was impossible for him to receive any re-inforcement, he resolved to march out of his intrenchments and attack the enemy. There was another consideration which determined him thereto, which was this; he saw that for two days together the Turks had been making the necessary dispositions for a general assault. His highness saw there was no time to be lost, and the only way to prevent their designs from taking effect, was immediately to execute his own. And, as the army saw there was no way of getting out of their ugly situation but by fighting, they were glad to see it so determined, while they were yet enough to form an army; and they exhorted each other to behave bravely, because the loss of victory would be attended with consequences the most shameful, and the most fatal, viz. either of being made prisoners by infidels, or being put to the sword in their camp.

The whole army was under arms by one in the morning,

morning, (August 16,) at which time there was the deepest silence in both camps; the Turks were intent on their preparations for an attack, and had not the least notion of being attacked themselves, when the imperialists marched out of their entrenchments. The night, which was very clear, would have discovered their march, but about the time they began to move there fell a thick fog, which covered them like a cloud. The first line advanced, favoured by this accident, for two hours, slowly and without beat of drum, the right having orders to extend itself towards the bonnet before the imperial camp, that it might be sustained by the artillery on that work; the left, where it was expected the strokes of the battle would be, was ordered to extend itself into the plain; the foot advancing in the middle. The fog all this time increased, so that at last the soldiers could scarcely see a yard before them. What had hitherto been an advantage proved now a detriment to the imperialists; for the right wing, not being able to distinguish the bonnet before their own camp, fell in with the head of one of the Turkish trenches; both sides were surprised: the Turks however made a brisk discharge, and then began screaming and crying in such a manner as alarmed indeed, but also confounded, their own army, which likewise fell to shouting and crying, ran in a hurry to their arms, and, in as great hurry advanced towards the imperial camp. The imperialists endeavoured to take their posts, but were forced to grope and feel their way; and, as one error is generally followed by another, the infantry on the right, regulating their march by the cavalry, strayed out of the line after them, and left a void in the centre capable of affording room to several battalions. But, in spite of all this, the engagement which began on the right soon became general: the left wing fought without seeing its enemies; they heard each other, and that was all; they fired and advanced; fired again, received the
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enemies fire, and advanced still; this however gave the Germans great advantage, because they were regular troops, and knew what they did. The Turks, on the other hand, were all in confusion; such as had courage knew not how to use it, and such as had none knew not how to fly. When they came to fight hand to hand, some of the German corps acted very imprudently, from a false notion of bravery; they pushed forward before they could be supported, and were consequently enveloped and cut to pieces, without doing any real service. However, on the whole, the imperialists every where gained ground; the infantry did wonders, they kept close in their ranks, and overturned every thing that stood in their way. They never perceived their enemies, nor were perceived by them, till the muzzles of their muskets were at the breasts of the Turks, who were utterly unprepared; so that every discharge did prodigious execution, and, before the remaining Turks could fire, they had either bayonets at their breasts, or were shot dead on the spot. No German soldier moved a step before his companion in the centre, which secured them from the mischief which had happened in the left, and which put it out of the power of the Turks to make even a tolerable resistance. Multitudes were at work in the trenches when the fight began, and, as they endeavoured to get out the imperialists cut them down; in a word, the slaughter was great, and the confusion still greater.

The cavalry on the right, as well as on the left, were not so successful: the ground before them was every where cut through with trenches; the fog made it so dark they could scarcely perceive them; and, while these obstacles obliged them to advance but slowly, the Turkish artillery galled them very much. These, however, were not the only misfortunes they met with; the Turks, pushing out of their camp, ran by chance into the void space in the centre, and thereby cut

cut off the right wing from the rest of the army, and fell on the flanks of both. About this time the fog suddenly cleared up, and the air became perfectly serene; this proved the ruin of the Turks: the second line advanced upon those who had pushed through the first, routed them, drove them back to their intrenchments, and filled up the void at once.

The imperial army, perceiving the advantages they had gained in the dark, prepared now to advance forward, and storm the enemy's works. The right wing possessed itself instantly of the batteries which had been playing upon them all the morning, and, without moving farther, turned the cannon on the infidels, and scoured the intrenchments, which immediately after they carried sword in hand. The troops on the left endeavoured to do as much, but they were not able; the enemy were strong on that side, and those who fled from the right increased their numbers to such a degree, that they charged the imperialists with prodigious weight. The Germans sustained this shock, though with great loss, without retreating a yard; and, notwithstanding they were enfeebled, advanced on the Turks when they found the fury of their attack abate. They then pushed them from trench to trench, till on a sudden they found the battle was to begin again. Behind those troops there was a battery of eighteen pieces of heavy cannon: the Germans cried out, that they would make themselves masters of it; but, advancing nearer, there appeared 20,000 foot and 10,000 spahis, in excellent order. The imperialists were constrained to halt, in order to form and to draw breath, the cannon playing upon them all the time. After some minutes they advanced again, the infantry with their muskets on their shoulders, the horse sword in hand. The janizaries behaved at first very well, but, when they saw the Germans throw themselves all at once on the battery, and creep through the embrasures, they were struck

with a panic; the cavalry, in the mean time, trod down the spahis, and, by the weight of their horses, carried all before them. This business was bloody, but it ended entirely in favour of the imperialists. The entrenchments were now forced, and the troops were much fatigued, yet there seemed to be but little done. The Turks rallied, and, to the number of 100,000, were forming in the plain, and there seemed to be no reason to question that a new engagement would ensue. The imperialists prepared for it; the horse and foot repaired to their posts, and began to move in battalia towards the Turks, who remained firm and in good order in the plain. When they arrived within musket-shot, the janizaries threw down their arms and ran away; the rest of the troops soon followed their example, leaving their standards, tents, artillery, and baggage, all behind them. The imperialists pursued them with great slaughter, and now thought the business over, when a body of spahis and Tartars took it in their heads to fall upon three regiments of horse and dragoons, which put them into disorder; they were presently sustained by the fire of the intrenchments; and two regiments of dragoons advancing to flank the Turks, they made a quick retreat. This happened about ten in the morning, and was the last scene of this important action; for the Turks, when once out of sight of the field of battle, thought of nothing but getting away as fast as they could. The Germans had now leisure to survey their camp, which looked like a large city well furnished with provisions, and crowded with ammunition; all the tents were new, as were likewise the waggons and equipage, and even their artillery. As to the number of their dead, 3000 were slain in the pursuit, and upwards of 10,000 on the field of battle; about 5000 were wounded, and near the same number taken prisoners. The imperialists had near 3000 killed, and about 4500 wounded, many of whom died soon after
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he battle. The next day Prince Eugene summoned the bashaw governor of Belgrade to surrender, threatening him with no quarter in case of refusal, on which the garrison mutinied, and obliged him to submit, but much against his inclination, as the place was still in a tolerable state of defence, and, as he thought, tenable against all the efforts of the enemy. He obtained honourable terms: the garrison was conducted to Nizza, and the prince entered the town after having besieged it upwards of two months.

The pope considered this as a religious war against the infidels; and obtained repeated assurances from the King of Spain, that he would not undertake any thing against the emperor, while he was engaged in such a laudable quarrel. Philip had even sent a squadron of ships and galleys to the assistance of the Venetians. In the course of the year 1717, however, he equipped a strong armament, the command of which he bestowed on the Marquis de Lede, who sailed from Barcelona in July, and, landing at Cagliari, in Sardinia, which belonged to the emperor, made a conquest of the whole island. At the same time the King of Spain endeavoured to justify these proceedings by a manifesto, in which he alleged, that the archduke, contrary to the faith of treaties, encouraged and supported the rebellion of his subjects in Catalonia, by frequent succours from Naples and other places; and that the great inquisitor of Spain had been seized, though furnished with a passport from his holiness. He promised, however, to proceed no farther, and suspend all operations, that the powers of Europe might have time and opportunity to contrive expedients for reconciling all differences, and securing the peace and balance of power in Italy: nay, he consented that this important affair should be left to the arbitration of King George and the States-General. These powers undertook the office. Conferences were begun between the ministers of the em-

peror, France, England, and Holland ; and these produced, in the course of the following year, the famous quadruple alliance. In this treaty it was stipulated, that the emperor should renounce all pretensions to the crown of Spain, and exchange Sardinia for Sicily with the Duke of Savoy: that the succession to the duchies of Tuscany, Parma, and Placentia, which the Queen of Spain claimed by inheritance, as princess of the house of Farnese, should be settled on her eldest son, in case the present possessors should die without male issue. Philip, dissatisfied with this partition, continued to make formidable preparations by sea and land. These gave rise to the naval armament, which was fitted out in England.

Endeavours had been used, on the part of King George, to adjust the differences subsisting between the Emperor Charles and Philip of Spain; for which purpose Colonel Stanhope had been sent to Madrid with a plan of pacification, which being rejected by Philip, at the instance of his prime minister, Cardinal Alberoni, the King of Great Britain determined to support his mediation by force of arms. Accordingly, Sir George Byng sailed from Spithead on the 15th of June, 1718, with twenty ships of the line, two fire-ships, two bomb-vessels, and ample instructions how to act on all emergencies. He arrived off Cape St. Vincent on the 30th of the month, when he dispatched his secretary to Cadiz with a letter to Colonel Stanhope, the British minister at Madrid, desiring him to inform his most Catholic majesty of the admiral's arrival in those parts, and lay before him this article of his instructions: " You are to make instances with both parties to cease from using any further acts of hostility: but, in case the Spaniards do still insist, with their ships of war and forces, to attack the kingdom of Naples, or other the territories of the emperor in Italy, or to land in any part of Italy, which can only be with a design to invade the emperor's dominions, against

against whom only they have declared war by invading Sardinia; or if they should endeavour to make themselves masters of the kingdom of Sicily, which must be with a design to invade the kingdom of Naples;— in this case, you are, with all your power, to hinder and obstruct the same. If it should so happen, that, at your arrival, with our fleet under your command, in the Mediterranean, the Spaniards should already have landed any troops in Italy, in order to invade the emperor's territories, you shall endeavour amicably to dissuade them from persevering in such an attempt, and offer them your assistance to help them to withdraw their troops, and put an end to all further acts of hostility. But, in case these your friendly endeavours shall prove ineffectual, you shall, by keeping company with, or intercepting, their ships or convoy, or, if it be necessary, by openly opposing them, defend the emperor's territories from any farther attempt."

When Cardinal Alberoni perused these instructions, he told Colonel Stanhope, with some warmth, that his master would run all hazards, and even suffer himself to be driven out of Spain, rather than recal his troops, or consent to a suspension of arms. He said the Spaniards were not to be frightened; and he was so well convinced that the fleet would do their duty, that in case of their being attacked by Admiral Byng, he should be in no pain for the success. Mr. Stanhope presenting him with a list of the British squadron, he threw it upon the ground with great emotion. He promised, however, to lay the admiral's letters before the king, and to let the envoy know his majesty's resolution. Such an interposition could not but be very provoking to the Spanish minister, who had laid his account with the conquest of Sicily, and, for that purpose, prepared an armament which was altogether surprising, considering the late shattered condition of the Spanish affairs. He seems to have put too much confidence

confidence in the strength of the Spanish fleet. In a few days he sent back the admiral's letter to Mr. Stanhope, with a note under it, importing, that Byng might execute the orders he had received from the king his master.

Mr. Stanhope, seeing things tending to a rupture, gave private and early notice of his apprehensions to the English consuls and merchants settled in the Spanish sea-ports, advising them to secure their effects against the dangers that might arise from a breach between the two crowns.

The admiral pursuing his voyage with unfavourable winds, it was the 8th of July before he made Cape Spartel, where the *Superbe* and *Rupert*, which had been separated from the fleet, rejoined him, and brought advice of the vast preparations which were made by the Spaniards at Barcelona, and of their fleet having sailed from thence the 18th of June to the eastward. Vice-admiral Cornwall joined the fleet with two ships, the *Argyle* and *Charles* galley, as it was passing by Gibraltar. The whole fleet anchored off Cape Malaga, to take in water, and then proceeded to Minorca. The admiral having relieved the garrison at Port Mahon, sailed for the bay of Naples, where he arrived on the 1st of August, and was received as a deliverer; and, indeed, nothing but this seasonable appearance of a powerful fleet could have preserved that kingdom to the house of Austria. Sicily, the citadel of Messina alone excepted, had already yielded to the Marquis de Lede, at the head of thirty thousand Spanish troops; the inhabitants being strongly attached to the sovereignty of Spain. Sir George Byng received the most distinguished marks of respect, whilst he continued among the Neapolitans. Count Daun, the imperial viceroy of Naples, presented Sir George with a sword set with diamonds, and a very rich staff of command: and, to the admiral's son, he made a present of a very fine sword.

After

After the conference, the admiral was splendidly entertained at dinner, and then lodged in the palace of the Duke de Matelona, which had been magnificently fitted up for his reception. The viceroy likewise sent refreshments to the fleet, consisting of a hundred oxen, three hundred sheep, six hundred pounds of sugar, seventy hogshheads of wine, forty hogshheads of brandy, and several other things.

It was determined to sail immediately to Sicily, in hopes of relieving the Piedmontese garrison, in the citadel of Messina, before they should surrender to the besiegers. For this purpose the admiral took under his convoy a reinforcement of two thousand German troops, under the command of General Wetzel. On the 9th of August he came in sight of the faro of Messina, when he immediately dispatched his own captain (Saunders) with a polite message to the Marquis de Lede, proposing a cessation of arms in Sicily for two months, that the powers of Europe might have time to concert measures for restoring a lasting peace; and declaring, that should this proposal be rejected, he would, in pursuance of his instructions, use all his force to prevent further attempts to disturb the dominions his master had engaged to defend. The Spanish general answered, that he had no powers to treat, consequently could not agree to an armistice, but should obey his orders, which directed him to reduce Sicily for his master, the King of Spain. The Spanish fleet had sailed from the harbour of Messina on the day before the English squadron appeared. Admiral Byng supposed they had retired to Malta, and directed his course towards Messina, in order to encourage and support the garrison in the citadel. But, in doubling the point of the faro, he descried two Spanish scouts, and learned from the people of a felucca from the Calabrian shore, that they had seen from the hills the Spanish fleet lying to in order of battle. The admiral immediately detached the German troops
to

to Reggio, under convoy of two ships of war. Then he stood through the faro after the Spanish scouts that led him to their main fleet, which, before noon, he descried in line of battle, amounting to seven and twenty, large and small, besides two fire-ships, four bomb-vessels, and seven galleys. They were commanded in chief by Don Antonio de Castanita, under whom were the four rear-admirals, Chacon, Mari, Guevara, and Cammock. At sight of the English squadron, they stood away large; and Byng gave chase all the rest of the day. In the morning, which was the 11th of August, 1718, N. S. the Rear-admiral de Mari, with six ships of war, the gallies, fire-ships, and bomb-ketches, separated from the main fleet, and stood in for the Sicilian shore. The English admiral detached Captain Walton, of the Canterbury, with five more ships, in pursuit of them; and they were soon engaged. He himself continued to chase their main fleet; and, about ten o'clock, the battle began. The Orford attacked the Santa Rosa, of 64 guns, and took her. The St. Carlos, of 60 guns, struck next, without much opposition, to the Kent, Captain Matthews. The Grafton, Captain Haddock, attacked warmly the Prince of Asturias, of 70 guns, formerly called the Cumberland, Rear-admiral Chacon; but the Breda and Captain coming up, Captain Haddock left that ship, much shattered, for them to take, and stretched ahead after another ship of 60 guns, which had kept firing on his star-board bow, during his engagement with the Prince of Asturias. About one o'clock, the Kent, and soon after the Superbe, Captain Masters, came up with, and engaged, the Spanish admiral, of 74 guns, who, with two ships more, fired on them, and made a running fight, till about three; and then the Kent, bearing down upon him, and under his stern, gave him her broadside, and fell to leeward afterwards; the Superbe, putting forward to lay the admiral a-board,

a-board, fell on his weather-quarter; upon which, the Spanish admiral shifting his helm, the *Superbe* ranged up under his lee-quarter, on which he struck to her. At the same time, the *Barfleur*, in which was the admiral, being astern of the Spanish admiral, within shot, and inclining on his weather-quarter, Rear-admiral Guevara, and another sixty-gun ship, which were to windward, bore down upon him, and gave him their broadsides, and then clapt upon a wind, standing in for land. The admiral immediately tacked, and stood after them, until it was almost night; but it being little wind, and they hauling away out of his reach, he left pursuing them, and stood into the fleet, which he joined two hours after night. The *Essex* took the *Juno*, of 36 guns; the *Montague* and *Rupert* took the *Volante*, of 44 guns; and Rear-admiral Delaval, in the *Dorsetshire*, took the *Isabella*, of 60 guns. The action happened off Cape Pessaro, at about six leagues distance from the the shore. The English received but little damage: the ship that suffered most was the *Grafton*, which being a good sailer, her captain engaged several ships of the enemy, always pursuing the headmost, and leaving those ships he had disabled or damaged, to be taken by those that followed him.

The admiral lay by some days at sea, to refit the rigging of his ships, and to repair the damages the prizes had sustained; and, on the 18th, received a letter from Captain Walton, of the *Canterbury*, who had been sent in pursuit of the Spanish ships that escaped. This letter is one of the most laconic epistles extant, whilst the transaction it speaks of was of such importance, that it would have furnished scope for a very elaborate description. It is, therefore, justly considered as a great curiosity; and is as follows: "Sir, We have taken and destroyed all the Spanish ships and vessels which were upon the coast, the number as per margin. I am, &c.

"G. WALTON."

By the account referred to, it appears, that Walton had taken four Spanish men of war; one of sixty guns, commanded by Rear-admiral Mari; one of fifty-four, one of forty, and one of twenty-four, guns, with a bomb-vessel, and a ship laden with arms; and burnt four men of war, one of fifty-four guns, two of forty, and one of thirty, guns, with a fire-ship and a bomb-vessel.

The Spaniards, in this action, appeared distracted in their counsels, and, consequently, acted in confusion. Their admiral behaved with courage and activity, notwithstanding which, they were all taken but Cammock, who escaped, with three ships of war and three frigates.

Had the Spaniards followed the advice of Rear-admiral Cammock, who was a native of Ireland, Sir George Byng would not have obtained such an easy victory. That officer proposed, that they should remain at anchor in the road of Paradise, with their broadsides to the sea; in which case the English admiral would have found it a very difficult task to attack them: for the coast is so bold, that the largest ships could ride with a cable ashore; whereas farther out the currents are so various and rapid, that the English squadron could not have come to an anchor, or lain near them in order of battle: besides, the Spaniards might have been reinforced from the army on shore, which would have raised batteries to annoy the assailants. Before King George had received an account of this engagement from the admiral, he wrote him a letter with his own hand, approving his conduct. When Sir George's eldest son arrived in England, with a circumstantial account of the action, he was graciously received, and sent back with plenipotentiary powers to his father, that he might negotiate with the several princes and states of Italy, as he should see occasion. The son likewise carried the king's royal grant to the officers and
seamen,

seamen, of all the prizes they had taken from the Spaniards. Notwithstanding this victory, the Spanish army carried on the siege of the citadel of Messina with such vigour, that the governor surrendered the place by capitulation on the 29th of September.

A treaty was now concluded, at Vienna, between the Emperor and the Duke of Savoy. They agreed to form an army for the conquest of Sardinia, in behalf of the duke; and, in the mean time, this prince engaged to evacuate Sicily: but, until his troops could be conveyed from that island, he consented that they should co-operate with the Germans against the common enemy. Admiral Byng continued to assist the imperialists in Sicily, during the best part of the winter, by scouring the seas of the Spaniards, and keeping the communication open between the German forces and the Calabrian shore, from whence they were supplied with provisions. He acted in this service with equal conduct, resolution, and activity. He conferred with the viceroy of Naples, and the other imperial generals, about the operations of the ensuing campaign; and Count Hamilton was dispatched to Vienna, to lay before the emperor the result of their deliberations: then the admiral set sail for Mahon, where his ships might be refitted, and put in a condition to take the sea in the spring.

This bold step in destroying the Spanish fleet, without any previous declaration of war, astonished all Europe. The court of Spain represented the conduct of Great Britain as inconsistent with those principles of good faith, for the observance of which she had hitherto been celebrated. The Marquis de Monteleone wrote a letter to Mr. Secretary Craggs, in which he remonstrated against this conduct, as a violation of the laws of nations. Cardinal Alberoni, who had before expressed himself to the English ambassador as ready to rest the decision of the contest upon the force of arms, should the two fleets happen

to meet, now wrote a letter to the English secretary, charging the administration to which he belonged with having acted a base and unwarrantable part. He said the plea of maintaining the neutrality of Italy was a weak pretence, since it was notorious, that such neutrality had long been at an end; and that the princes guarantees of the treaty of Utrecht were entirely discharged from their engagements, not only by the scandalous infringements committed by the Austrians in the evacuation of Catalonia and Majorca, but also because the guarantee was no longer binding than until a peace was concluded with France. He taxed the British ministry with having revived and supported this neutrality, not by an amicable mediation, but by open violence, and artfully abusing the confidence and security of the Spaniards. This was the language of disappointed ambition; and, in some essential instances, not only unsupported by facts, but repugnant to them.

The parliament meeting on the 11th of November, the king, in his speech, declared that the court of Spain had rejected all his amicable proposals, and broke through their most solemn engagements for the security of the British commerce. To vindicate, therefore, the faith of his former treaties, as well as to maintain those he had lately made, and to protect and defend the trade of his subjects, which had, in every branch, been violently and unjustly oppressed, it became necessary for his naval forces to check their progress: that, notwithstanding the success of his arms, that court had lately given orders at all the ports of Spain, and of the West-Indies, to fit out privateers against the English. He said, he was persuaded, that a British parliament would enable him to resent such treatment: and he assured them, that the regent of France was ready to concur with him in the most vigorous measures. The commons voted 13,500 sailors; and 12,435 men, for the land service: The whole

whole estimate amounted to 2,257,581*l.* 1*g*s. The money was raised by a land-tax, malt-tax, and lottery.

The king, on the 17th of December, sent a message to the commons, importing, that all his endeavours to procure redress for the injuries done to his subjects by the King of Spain, having proved ineffectual, he had found it necessary to declare war against that monarch. The declaration of war against Spain was published with the usual solemnities; but this war was not a favourite of the people, and, therefore, did not produce those acclamations that were usual on such occasions.

Here it will be necessary to take notice of the reduction of the American buccaneers, in consequence of the measures which had been taken for that purpose, (see p. 26.) Captain Woodes Rogers, who had made a successful voyage round the world in a Bristol privateer, and with another under his command, was now appointed governor of the Bahama islands. When he arrived at Providence, which was appointed to be the seat of his government, he was cordially received by the people, and many pirates, who harboured there, voluntarily submitted. He then proceeded to form a council, and establish a regular system of civil government, which, at length, brought these rovers to subjection. Two of their vessels being taken, after the time of surrender limited in the proclamation expired, and the captains and their crews being hanged, these nests of cruel villains and lawless freebooters were destroyed totally, after having for many years spread terror through the West-Indies, and even the northern colonies. The cruelties they exercised on those who were so unhappy as to fall into their hands, exceeded even those committed by the African corsairs, and rendered slavery among the Turks preferable to their yoke.

Soon after the declaration of war against Spain, the Earl of Stair, who still continued to reside at Paris, as the English minister, transmitted to his court intelligence

ligence of the designs which Cardinal Alberoni, assisted by the Duke of Ormond, had formed against England. This was no other than an attempt to set the Chevalier de St. George on the throne. Administration was not inactive upon the receipt of this important advice. A fleet was immediately ordered to be got ready, and 5000*l.* reward was offered by proclamation to any one who should apprehend James Butler, late Duke of Ormond. On the 5th of April, 1719, Sir John Norris sailed from Spithead, with nine men of war, directing his course to the westward; and he was soon after reinforced by a squadron under the Earl of Berkley. Troops were likewise stationed in the most convenient places for the defence of the kingdom, should it be attacked; and large bodies of foreign forces came over from Holland and Switzerland. These judicious precautions were, however, rendered unnecessary, for, soon after the Spanish armament had sailed from Cadiz, as if a fatality hung over all attempts which that kingdom should make to annoy England, a furious tempest overtook them, on the 28th of February, when they were about fifty leagues to the westward of Cape Finisterre, which continued forty-eight hours, and entirely dispersed the whole fleet, consisting of five men of war, and forty transports. The Duke of Ormond was on-board, with five thousand land forces; besides which, were embarked a great quantity of ammunition, spare arms, and one million pieces of eight. Such ships as returned to the ports of Spain were in a very shattered condition; the number that were lost was never known; but a small part of this force, being three frigates and five transports, reached Scotland, and landed the Earls of Marshall and Seaford, and the Marquis of Tullibadine, with about four hundred men, chiefly Spaniards, in the shire of Ross, where they were joined by the disaffected Scots, who presently amounted to about one thousand five hundred men.

men. Ormond, however, who was to have headed these insurgents, did not arrive. Major-general Wightman defeated them at Gleenhill; after which, the Spaniards, amounting to about three hundred, surrendered at discretion, while the three noblemen, just named, escaped to the Western Isles, from whence they soon after found means to return to the continent. Before this entire dispersion, they had met with a check at Donan castle, which was taken by his majesty's ships the Worcester, Enterprize, and Flam-borough; the castle being blown up, and the greatest part of their ammunition taken or destroyed.

The regent of France, who was strongly attached to the interest of the King of Great Britain, declared war against his cousin the King of Spain. Many of the first nobility of France were much offended at this step; and, when it was determined to send an army into Spain, Marshal Villars refused to act against a grandson of his former master. The Duke of Berwick, now invested with a marshal's staff, was not so scrupulous; and, though he had been the chief means of placing Philip upon his throne, by the decisive victory which he gained at Almanza, yet he accepted the command of an army which was appointed to invade his territories, in order to compel him to accede to such conditions as were thought requisite to establish the general tranquillity of Europe.

In the month of April, a detachment, commanded by the Marquis de Cilly, penetrated to Port Passage, where were six Spanish men of war upon the stocks, almost finished; these he burnt, together with timber, masts, and naval stores, to the value of half a million sterling; and, shortly after, Berwick laid siege to Fontarabia, which he made himself master of.

Meanwhile, Sir George Byng, who had wintered in the Mediterranean, early in the spring proceeded from Port Mahon to Naples, where he concerted measures for the reduction of Sicily. As soon as the imperial

imperial army destined for that expedition was ready; he received it on-board his fleet, and landed the troops on the island. His ships, by supplying the army with necessaries, and attentively watching the motions of the enemy, greatly accelerated its reduction. On the 8th of August, the city of Messina surrendered to the imperialists. The admiral then landed a body of English grenadiers, who very quickly made themselves masters of the Tower of Faro, and thereby gained a free passage for the fleet to come within reach of some Spanish men of war that lay in the mole, protected by the guns of the citadel. As the surrender of this fortress was soon expected, the different commanders who carried on the attack, began to anticipate the possession of the Spanish men of war, all of which must then be taken. Signior Scampi, general of the King of Sardinia's galleys, laid claim to two of them, one of sixty, the other sixty-four guns: he founded his pretensions on their having originally belonged to the king his master; for the Spaniards had seized them in the port of Palermo. Count de Mercy, who commanded for the emperor, insisted, that when the fort should be taken, that and the port would belong to the emperor, and, therefore, according to the established laws of nations, the ships became his. Our English admiral supported his pretensions to these prizes by asserting, that the taking them was entirely owing to the ships he constantly stationed to watch their motions, and, if he drew his cruisers off, the Spanish ships would even then be able to leave the port and get to sea, where he should have a chance of meeting with and taking them. Such were the pleas urged by the three commanders, which, however, was adjusted without any disagreeable consequences arising; for Sir George Byng reflecting, that possibly the garrison might capitulate for the safe return of those ships into Spain, which he was determined never to suffer, that, on the other hand, the
right

right of possession might breed an inconvenient dispute among the princes concerned; and, if it should prove that they did not belong to England, it were better they belonged to nobody; he proposed to Count de Mercy to erect a battery, and destroy them as they lay in the basin; who urged, that he had no orders concerning those ships, and must write to Vienna for instructions about it. The admiral replied, with some warmth, that he could not want a power to destroy every thing that belonged to the enemy, and insisted on it with so much firmness, that the general being concerned in interest, not to carry matters to a disagreement, caused a battery to be erected, notwithstanding the protestations of Scampi, which, in a little time, sunk and destroyed them, and completed the ruin of the naval power of Spain.

Still, however, the citadel of Messina held out, the besiegers being in want both of artillery and ammunition. To supply these, the admiral sent ashore the cannon which were on-board the English prizes, and procured, upon his own credit, powder and other ammunition from Genoa. No sooner were the allies put into possession of the citadel by these means, than Sir George Byng transported a large body of troops to Tropani, another part of the island, by which the Spaniards were so much annoyed, that the Marquis de Lede, their general, proposed to evacuate the island. Byng rejected these conditions, which the other commanders were disposed to grant. He insisted that the Spanish troops should not be permitted to quit Sicily and return to Spain, till a general peace was concluded, or until they had engaged to serve no more during the continuance of the war. Hostilities were therefore continued until the admiral received advice from the Earl of Stair, at Paris, that the Spanish ambassador at the Hague had signed the quadruple alliance. Commissioners were sometime after appointed on both sides, and a convention was signed:

by it, the Germans were put into possession of Palermo; and the Spanish army marched to Termini, from whence they were transported to Barcelona.

On the 10th of October, the Sheerneck, commanded by Captain Delgarno, chased and took a Spanish packet boat between Lagos and Cape St. Mary, named the St. Francis, of eighteen guns, six pattereroes, one hundred and twenty-five men, and thirty passengers, bound to Cadiz from St. Domingo. About the same time, Captain Saunders, in the Dreadnought, was sent by the admiral against the Maltese, who had not only assisted the Spaniards, but had taken many English merchantmen. The captain was directed to demand satisfaction for the injuries and insults which had been committed. After some conferences had been held with the deputies, which arrived on-board the ship from the grand master and council of Malta, full reparation was obtained for all the damages done by their subjects to those of Great Britain.

Sir George Byng, having seen the convention for the evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia duly executed, and having ordered his whole squadron to return to England, four ships only excepted, set out himself from Genoa by land, and arrived at Hanover on the 21st of August, 1720. His majesty, who was there at that time, received him very graciously, telling him, he had found out the secret of obliging his enemies, as well as his friends; for the court of Spain had mentioned him in the most honourable terms, with respect to his candid and friendly deportment, in providing transports and other necessaries for the embarkation of the troops, and in protecting them from oppression. He was appointed treasurer of the navy, and rear-admiral of Great Britain. In a little time the king ennobled him by the title of Viscount Torrington; he was declared a privy counsellor, and afterwards made a knight of the bath, at the revival of that order.

Whilst

Whilst these transactions passed in the Mediterranean, the English ministry, in order to retaliate the invasion of England, which had been projected by Spain, determined to make a descent on the Spanish coast; and Corunna, or the Groyne, was the place destined to be attacked. Four thousand men, commanded by Lord Cobham, were embarked at the Isle of Wight, and sailed on the 21st of September, under convoy of five men of war, commanded by Vice-admiral Mighels. They arrived on the coast of Galicia, where they cruised three days, expecting to be joined by two more ships of war, under Captain Johnson: but he not appearing, and the transports being particularly exposed to danger by lying on the coast, at that season of the year, the commanders having a favourable wind to carry them to Vigo, determined to bend their course thither, instead of to Corunna.

On the 10th of October, they entered that harbour; and the grenadiers being immediately landed about three miles from the town, drew up on the beach: some peasants fired from the mountains, at a great distance, but without any effect. Lord Cobham went ashore with the grenadiers, and the regiments followed as fast as the boats could land them. That night, and the following day and night, the troops lay upon their arms. In the mean while provisions for four days were brought ashore; and guards were posted in several avenues, to the distance of above a mile up the country.

Two days after, his lordship moved with the forces nearer the town, and encamped at a strong post, with the left to the sea, near the village of Boas, and the right extending towards the mountains. This motion of the army, and some parties that were ordered to view the town and citadel, gave the enemy some apprehensions that preparations were making to attack them. Whereupon, they set fire to the carriages of

the cannon of the town, spiked the guns, and, by all their motions, seemed to indicate their intention of abandoning the town to the care of the magistrates and inhabitants, and to retire with the regular troops into the citadel. Lord Cobham then sent to summon the town to surrender, which the magistrates agreed to; and the same night his lordship ordered Brigadier Honynwood, with eight hundred men, to take post in the town, and fort St. Sebastian, which the enemy had also abandoned.

On the 14th a bomb-vessel began to bombard the citadel; but with little execution, on account of the great distance. That evening, the large mortars, and the cohorn-mortars, were landed at the town; between forty and fifty of them, great and small, placed on a battery, under covert of fort St. Sebastian, began in the night to play upon the citadel, and continued it four days with great success. On the fourth day his lordship ordered the battering cannon to be landed; and, with some others found in the town, to be placed on the battery of fort St. Sebastian. At the same time, his lordship summoned the governor to surrender, acquainting him, that, if he held out till the battery of cannon was ready, no quarter should be given. Colonel Ligonier was sent with this message, but found the governor Don Joseph de los Cereos had the day before been carried out of the castle, wounded; the lieutenant-colonel, who commanded in his absence, desired that hostilities might cease, whilst he sent to the Marquis de Risburg, at Tuy, for his directions; but this being refused, the citadel surrendered without any farther delay, and obtained an honourable capitulation. The number of men that marched out of the garrison was four hundred and sixty-nine, officers included, three hundred had been killed or wounded during the siege, whilst, on the side of the English, only two officers and four private men were killed. In the town, were sixty
pieces

pieces of large iron cannon, which the Spaniards had spiked and damaged, as much as their time would give them leave; and in the citadel were forty-three pieces, of which fifteen were brass, and two large mortars; besides above two thousand barrels of powder, and several chests of arms, amounting to about eight thousand musquets: all these stores, and brass ordnance, were lodged there from on-board the ships that were to have visited Great Britain the preceding spring; and the very troops that gave up Vigo, were also of that expedition. Seven ships were seized in the harbour, three of which were fitting up for privateers, one to carry twenty-four guns; the rest were trading vessels.

Vigo being thus taken, Lord Cobham ordered Major-general Wade to embark with a thousand men on-board four transports, and to sail to the upper end of the bay of Vigo; which he accordingly did, on the 25th, and having landed his men, marched to Pont-a-Vedra, which place surrendered without opposition, the magistrates of the town meeting them with the keys. In the place were taken, two forty-eight pounders, four twenty-four pounders, six eight pounders, and four mortars, all brass; besides seventy pieces of iron cannon, two thousand small arms, some bombs, &c. all which, except the twenty-four pounders, were embarked, and Major-general Wade returned with his booty and troops to Vigo, on the 4th of November. And the next day, Lord Cobham, finding it would be impossible for him to maintain his ground any longer in Spain, ordered the forces to be embarked, as likewise the cannon, &c. which being done by the 17th, he sailed that day for England, where he arrived on the 22d of November; having lost in the expedition, about three hundred of his men, who were either killed, died, or deserted.

In the mean time, Captain Johnson, with his two ships, not having been able to join Admiral Mighels, proceeded

proceeded to the port of Ribadeo, to the eastward of Cape Ortigas, where he destroyed two Spanish ships; so that the naval power of Spain was totally ruined. An expedition against Peru, in South America, had likewise been projected; but the earnestness with which the court of Madrid sought a peace caused this remote attack to be laid aside.

Let us now turn to the affairs of the north, where the system of politics had undergone a thorough change, after the death of Charles king of Sweden. Ulrica, the new queen, concluded a peace with King George early in the summer, by which the duchies of Bremen and Verden, with all their dependencies, were yielded to the electoral house of Brunswick, for which investiture the king agreed to pay a million of rix-dollars. The czar Peter, however, refused to conclude a peace with Sweden, being determined to attempt farther conquests. In the beginning of September, Sir John Norris was sent with a squadron into the Baltic, with orders to join the Swedish fleet. He arrived at Dahlen, near Stockholm, on the 6th of the same month. This junction of the English and Swedish fleets broke all the measures of the Russian Emperor. His fleet had landed fifteen thousand troops at the Scheuron or Batles of Sweden, where they committed savage outrages, but, when Sir John Norris arrived in those parts, the czar, dreading the fate of the Spanish navy, re-embarked his forces, and secured his fleet in the harbour of Revel. The conduct of Sir John Norris in this expedition was highly meritorious; by his prudence and activity, the most essential services were rendered his country, and the balance of power in the north was preserved without a blow being struck. This admiral returned with his fleet to England about the latter end of November.

Soon after the king's return to England, the parliament assembled. The house of commons was far from

from being unanimous in their opinion concerning the measures adopted by the ministry, but a decisive majority appeared in their favour. On the 2d of December, 13,500 seamen were voted for the service of the navy, during the year 1720: 217,918l. 10s. 8d. was given for the ordinary of the navy, and 79,723l. for the extraordinary repairs. Soon after, a demand was made for a considerable sum expended in the necessary service of the last year, beyond what was provided in parliament, and after great debates a vote was obtained on the 15th of January, 1720, for 377,561l. in discharge of those expences. The parliament then turned to an object of the greatest importance, namely, that of securing the dependency of the Irish parliament upon that of Great Britain. Maurice Annesley had appealed to the house of peers in England, from a decree of the house of peers of Ireland, which was reversed. The British peers ordered the barons of the exchequer in Ireland to put Mr. Annesley in possession of the lands he had lost by the decree in that kingdom. The barons obeyed his order, and the Irish house of peers passed a vote against them, as, having attempted to diminish the just privileges of the parliament of Ireland; and, at the same time, ordered the barons to be taken under the custody of the black rod. On the other hand, the house of lords in England resolved, that the barons of the exchequer in Ireland had acted with courage and fidelity; and addressed the king to signify his approbation of their conduct, by some marks of his favour. To complete their intention, a bill was prepared, by which the Irish house of lords was deprived of all rights of final jurisdiction. This was opposed in both houses. In the lower house some members asserted, that it would only increase the power of the English peers, who already had too much. Mr. Hungerford demonstrated that the Irish lords had always exerted their power of finally deciding

deciding causes. The Duke of Leeds produced fifteen reasons against the bill; but, notwithstanding all opposition, it was carried by a great majority, and received the royal assent.

In the beginning of the month of February, the King of Spain acceded to the quadruple alliance. Philip, attacked on all sides, and his kingdom exhausted, now saw the mischiefs resulting from the ambitious schemes which Alberoni had caused him to adopt. That churchman and minister was so obnoxious to the emperor, the king of England, and the regent of France, that, when overtures towards a peace were made by Spain, the confederates refused to treat whilst the cardinal remained in office. His catholic majesty, therefore, was compelled to deprive him of all his employments, and, farther, to gratify the allies, ordered him to quit the kingdom in three weeks.

The king, in his speech, having recommended to the commons the consideration of proper means for lessening the national debt, this served as a prelude to the famous South-Sea act, which became productive of so much mischief and infatuation through that spirit of avarice and chicanery which had infested almost all ranks of people. The preceding year, John Law, a Scotchman, had found means to engage the French ministry to patronize a scheme for erecting a company in France, under the name of the Mississippi Company; which at first promised the deluded people immense wealth, but too soon appeared an imposture, and left a great part of that nation in ruin and distress. The people of England were now deceived by just such another project, which is remembered by all, under the name of the South-Sea scheme, and to this day felt by thousands. The rise of this company has been already traced, and the stipulations, respecting its commerce, when the peace of Utrecht took place, have been spoken of towards the end of the preceding volume. We are now to
view

view it in its inflated state, when the nation became duped by the imaginary consequence of this commercial body, and fell a prey to the designs of a junto of knaves.

Sir John Blount, who had been bred a scrivener, and was possessed of all the cunning and plausibility requisite for such an undertaking, proposed to the ministry, in the name of the South-Sea company, to lessen the national debt, by permitting that company to buy up all the debts of the different companies, and thus to become the sole creditor of the state. The terms offered the government were extremely advantageous. The South-Sea company was to redeem the debts of the nation out of the hands of the private proprietors, who were creditors to the government, upon whatever terms they could agree; and, for the interest of this money, which they had thus redeemed, and taken into their own hands, they would be contented to be allowed for six years five per cent. and then the interest should be reduced to four per cent. and be redeemable by parliament. For these purposes a bill passed both houses; and, as the directors of the South-Sea company could not, of themselves alone, be supposed to be possessed of money sufficient to buy up these debts of the government, they were empowered to raise it by opening a subscription, and granting annuities to such proprietors as should think proper to exchange their creditors; namely, the crown for the South-Sea company, with the advantages that might be made by their commerce. The superior benefits with which these proprietors were flattered, by thus exchanging their property in the government funds for South-Sea company stock, were a chimerical prospect of having their money turned to great profit, by a commerce to the southern parts of America, where it was reported, that the English were to have some new settlements granted them by the King of Spain. The directors' books, therefore, were no

sooner opened for the first subscription, but crowds came to make the exchange; the delusion spread; subscriptions, in a few days, sold for double the price they had been bought at. The scheme succeeded, and the whole nation was infected with a spirit of avaricious enterprize. The stock increased to a surprising degree; the fame and credit of the leading directors and managers rose in proportion. Addressees were made to them from persons of high rank, and, in testimony of ministerial approbation, several of the directors had the hereditary honour of baronet conferred on them. Yet, very soon after, such sudden fluctuations in their stock happened, sometimes even in the space of a few hours, as might have given clear indications of its precarious value, notwithstanding the various arts daily practised to keep it constantly rising. For though, on the 2d of June, 1720, it got up to 890 per cent. yet that vast price bringing many sellers to 'Change Alley, the day following it fell to 640, and yet the same evening rose again to 770. On the 6th it was at 820, but, by the 14th, fell to 710. Many were obliged to sell out their stock, to enable them to make their second payment on the subscription; and some began to have their eyes opened by the judicious calculations of Archibald Hutchinson, Esq. and others. These alarming circumstances obliged the managers to lend great sums of money on South-Sea stock, at four hundred per cent. which loan answered a double purpose, by preventing the stock, which was thus pawned, being brought to market, and plied the borrowers with the means of buying more. So that, though the price of the stock was somewhat under eight hundred per cent. the junto ventured so far out of their depth, as to take a third money-subscription for the purchase of stock, at one thousand per cent. in ten different payments of one hundred pounds each, for five millions of stock. In a few days, the first payment of

one hundred pounds rose to four hundred pounds, making the price of the stock one thousand three hundred pounds. A few days after the Midsummer shutting of the books, the price of South-Sea stock, for the opening of them, was at one thousand per cent. and upward, including the ten per cent. Midsummer dividend.

Whilst South-Sea stock was at its meridian height, the stocks of the other two great companies rose gradually above their real value. East-India stock was up to four hundred and forty-five per cent. and Bank stock to two hundred and sixty. This rise was partly occasioned by the sellers out of South-Sea stock, and also out of the bubbles, as they were justly termed, or numerous inferior stocks at very high prizes, who thought their money safer in being invested in these stocks than elsewhere. About Midsummer, 1720, the advanced prices of all the stocks, greater or less, of every kind, were computed to amount to about five hundred millions of pounds sterling, or above five times as much as the current cash of all Europe: and, if the yearly rents of lands and houses in Great Britain, at that time, be supposed not to exceed fourteen millions, and that the full value thereof, houses and lands taken together, did not then exceed sixteen years purchase on an average, or two hundred and twenty-four millions of money, then the current price of all the transferrable funds was above double the amount of the fee simple of all the immoveable property of the nation.

On the 18th of August, the directors of the South-Sea Company, obtained from government a *scire facias* against those airy projects, called bubbles, which, at this time, were become very numerous, and had greatly advanced in their prices, even after an act of parliament had passed this session for suppressing them, and a royal proclamation had likewise been issued to enforce the laws against them. But

these restraints had not been effectual to repress the rage for adventurous enterprizes, excited by the hope of becoming rich, by more speedy means than persevering industry pointed out. 'Change Alley, therefore, was crowded from morning to night, with dealers in those bubbles. Some of these were founded on obsolete and forfeited charters, upon the credit of which, large money subscriptions were opened for carrying on what the parties were not authorized to do. Others grafted new and additional projects on their obsolete charters, which had been originally granted for very different purposes. A third species of bubbles, and which, indeed, were the most numerous, did not even pretend to charters of any kind. Not a day passed without fresh projects, recommended by pompous advertisements in all the news-papers. On some of these six-pence per cent. was paid down; on others one shilling per cent. and some descended so low as one shilling per thousand, at the time of subscribing. Some of the obscure keepers of those books of subscription, contenting themselves with what they had procured in the forenoon by the subscriptions of one or two millions, disappeared in the afternoon of the same day. On some schemes, that had persons of credit to usher them into the Alley, ten shillings deposit was paid: some were divided into shares, instead of hundreds and thousands, upon each of which a certain sum must be paid, and both for them and the other kinds, printed receipts were given, signed by persons utterly unknown. Persons of quality, of both sexes, were deeply engaged in these bubbles, avarice prevailing at this time over every consideration, either of dignity or honour. Noblemen resorted to taverns and coffee-houses to meet their brokers, and women of quality to the shops of milliners and haberdashers for the same purpose. Any impudent impostor, whilst the delusion was at its greatest height, needed only to hire a room at some coffee-

coffee-house, or other house, near Exchange Alley, for a few hours, and open a subscription book, for somewhat relating to commerce, manufacture, plantation, or some supposed invention, having advertised it in the news-papers the preceding day, and subscribers for one or two millions of imaginary stock would presently flock in. Many of the subscribers themselves were far from believing those projects feasible; it was enough for their purpose that there would very soon be a premium on the receipts for those subscriptions, when they generally got rid of them in the crowded alley, to others more credulous than themselves. And, in all events, the projector was sure of his deposit money. So great was the wild confusion among the crowd in 'Change Alley, that the same project or bubble has been known to be sold at the same instant of time, ten per cent higher, at one end of the Alley than at the other. Posterity will hardly credit the impositions which were successfully practised on the credulity of mankind. An advertisement appeared, "for subscribing two millions to a certain promising or profitable design, which will hereafter be promulgated." Square bits of playing cards, called, "Globe permits," were currently sold for sixty guineas and upwards; they had the impression of a seal on wax, being sign of the Globe Tavern, in the neighbourhood of 'Change Alley, with the inscription of sail-cloth permits, but no name signed thereon. The possessors of these were in some future time to be permitted to subscribe to a new sail-cloth manufacture, projected by one who was then known to be a man of fortune, though afterwards involved in great calamities and disgrace. To ridicule the infatuation that prevailed, the following advertisement appeared: "On Tuesday next books will be opened at ———, to receive a subscription of two millions, for the invention of melting down saw-dust and chips, and casting them into clean boards, without cracks or knots."

The managers of the South-Sea Company imagined that the traffic in these bubbles obstructed the rise of their stock. The *scire facias* which they procured to suppress them, like the touch of Ithuriel's spear, instantly reduced them all to their proper size and value.

No sooner was this absolute prohibition published in the London Gazette, than a general panic seized the conductors of all the undertakings and projects. The calamities brought on multitudes by this instantaneous discovery of the illusion, under the force of which they had sported away their property, though grievous in themselves, and widely spread, were only preludes to the catastrophe which soon followed, by the fall of South-Sea stock and subscriptions. From the issuing of the *scire facias*, it gradually declined in price, though with many great fluctuations, occasioned by the many arts practised to keep it up. The court of directors now saw their mistake, but too late, in suppressing the bubbles. On the 30th of September, South-Sea stock had fallen to one hundred and seventy per cent. and their bonds were at twenty-five per cent. discount. Towards the close of the year, the consequences of this fatal imposition became openly apparent. Many families of rank and quality sustained irreparable losses. Merchants of the first consequence became bankrupts, mutual confidence was destroyed. Many, who had inherited ample fortunes, and were accustomed to live in splendour, were now reduced to the most abject want. Many, unable to support this reverse of fortune, retired to remote parts of the world to devour their melancholy in silent obscurity, whilst those who had suddenly amassed wealth by successful dealings in the Alley, by their profuse luxuries and unrestrained licentiousness, caused an evil spirit to go forth and prevail in the nation, to corrupt and poison those principles, which are the best security for its safety and prosperity.

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The chief resource of these unfortunate dupes now lay in the legislature, by whose interposition they hoped to obtain an equitable distribution of the undivided South-Sea stock, as far as that would go. A secret committee of the house of commons, which sat in the beginning of the year 1721, made several reports against the conduct of the South-Sea directors, and indirectly against others in very high stations, some of whom were expressly included in the laws made for mulcting those directors, and for sequestrating their estates, and those of some of their principal servants. Knight, the treasurer of the South-Sea Company, who had been entrusted with the whole affair, thought proper to withdraw himself from the kingdom; a proclamation was issued to apprehend him, and another for preventing any of the directors from escaping out of the kingdom. Knight was seized at Tirlemont, and committed to the citadel of Antwerp. The British minister at the court of Vienna, hereupon applied for the delinquent to be delivered up, in order that he might be brought to justice, but the wealth which he had amassed, procured him protection from the states of Brabant, who insisted that they enjoyed a chartered privilege, by which all persons apprehended for crimes, within their jurisdiction, were amenable to that state. The house of commons were much incensed at the protection which was thus granted to a man who had defrauded a whole nation; but, whilst the emperor was afresh entreated to interpose, Knight escaped from his confinement, and found means to elude the vigilance of his pursuers.

In the mean time, the house of commons pursued their enquiries with great spirit; Mr. Secretary Craggs, and Mr. Aislaby, chancellor of the exchequer, were found to have been concerned with the South-Sea directors in their delusive projects. Craggs died before the censure of the house was passed upon his conduct; but Aislaby was expelled the house, and committed

committed a prisoner to the Tower. The South-Sea directors were ordered to deliver inventories of their estates, which were confiscated by act of parliament, towards making good the damages sustained by the company, after a certain allowance was deducted for the subsistence of each, according to his former rank, and as he had been more or less concerned in the frauds.

The whole capital stock of the company had amounted to near 38,000,000*l.* at the end of the year 1720; and only twenty four millions and a half were allotted to the proprietors, the remaining capital stock belonging to the company in their corporate capacity. It was the profit arising from the execution of the South-Sea scheme, and out of this the bill enacted, that seven millions should be paid to the public. The present act likewise directed several additions to be made to the stock of the proprietors, out of that possessed by the company in their own right; it made a particular distribution of stock, amounting to two millions two hundred thousand pounds, and, upon remitting five millions of the seven to be paid to the public, annihilated two millions of their capital. It was enacted, that, after these distributions, the remaining capital stock should be divided among all the proprietors. This dividend amounted to 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per cent. and deprived the company of eight millions nine hundred thousand pounds. They had lent above 11,000,000 on stock unredeemed; of which the parliament discharged all the debtors upon their paying ten per cent. Upon this article, the company's loss exceeded 6,900,000*l.* for many debtors refused to make any payment. The proprietors of the stock loudly complained of their being deprived of two millions, and the parliament, in the sequel, revived that sum which had been annihilated. By the wise and vigorous resolutions of the parliament, the South-Sea Company was soon in a condition to fulfil
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their engagements with the public, the ferment of the people subsided, and the credit of the nation was restored.

Whilst these domestic ferments prevailed, the affairs of the north were still involved in disagreement and contention. After the death of Charles XII. the Swedes asserted that their crown was elective, not hereditary, and proceeded to elect Frederic prince of Hesse, consort to their queen, for their king, at her express desire. Hereby they excluded the Duke of Holstein, her sister's son. The Czar Peter entered into the interests of this young prince, and proposed to the Swedish diet, that they should annul their election, and settle the crown on the Prince of Holstein, after which he engaged to give him his daughter in marriage, and for her dower the provinces which he had conquered from Sweden; at the same time intimating, that, if his offer was refused, they must expect the war to be prosecuted with redoubled fury; and, in confirmation of this threat, he caused great naval preparations to be made in all his ports. As Ulrica Eleanor, Queen of Sweden, had entered into a close league with the King of Great-Britain, it was thought necessary to support her husband in his possession of the throne; whereupon Sir John Norris was again sent into the Baltic, with a strong squadron, in order to prevail on the czar to enter into terms of peace. The English fleet joined that of Sweden as auxiliaries, but they had no opportunity of acting against the Russian squadron, which secured itself in Revel. The superiority which was hereby maintained in the Baltic, inclined the czar to listen to an accommodation, and peace was concluded at Neifladt, on the 31st of August, 1721. By this treaty the czar was secured in the possession of those provinces which he had conquered, in return for which the Swedes received various immunities and advantages. This important business being settled, Sir John Norris took

leave of the Swedish court, and sailed for Copenhagen, where he arrived in the beginning of the month of October; and soon after he proceeded to England.

The admiralty-board now underwent a change; the Earl of Berkley was appointed first lord, Sir John Jennings, John Cockburn, and William Chetwynd, Esqrs; Sir John Norris, Sir Charles Wager, and Daniel Pulteney, Esq. commissioners for executing the office of lord high-admiral of Great Britain.

The parliament met on the 19th of October, when the house of commons granted seven thousand men for the service of the sea, for the year 1722, at the usual rate of four pounds a-man per month, at thirteen months in the year. About the beginning of December, Sir Charles Wager and Rear-admiral Hosier were appointed to command a squadron, which was fitted out upon a secret expedition, which was generally thought to be designed against Portugal, to demand satisfaction for an insult offered the British nation at Lisbon, in the persons of Messrs. Wingfield and Roberts, two gentlemen of the factory there, whose effects had been seized, their persons imprisoned, and they even condemned to death, under the pretence of their having exported gold coin. A law had been made in Portugal, by which the exportation of any coin whatsoever was forbidden upon pain of death; but the nature of the trade with England made it necessary for the government to connive at the violation of this statute: the woollen manufactures which are imported into Portugal from England being more in value than six returns of wine. The motives which led the ministry of the court of Lisbon to exercise this act of severity is not known, but the vigorous measures which were taken by the British cabinet so effectually alarmed those against whom they were designed, that the gentlemen of the factory were set at liberty, and their property restored to them, and the whole affair amicably adjusted. Hereupon the naval armament

armament was laid aside, and the harmony between the two nations became re-established.

Whilst the tranquillity of Europe thus continued uninterrupted, the piratical depredations in the West-Indies and America, which had been suppressed by the vigilance of Governor Rogers and other commanders there, (see p. 45.) began to be renewed. The Spaniards, who secretly fomented these outrages, had occasioned their renewal. The most considerable of these free-booters was one Roberts, who was an experienced seaman, fearless of danger, qualified to command, and ever vigilant in the execution of his designs. He had with him three ships; that on which he was on-board carried forty guns, and one hundred and fifty-two men; another had thirty-two guns, and one hundred and thirty-two men; the third was a vessel of twenty-four guns and ninety-men. With this force Roberts did incredible mischief in the West-Indies; afterwards he sailed to Africa, where he took many prizes; but Captain Ogle, in the *Swallow*, was fortunate enough to suppress this free-booter in the month of April, 1722. This service was performed with great address in the following manner. As he was cruising off Cape Lopez, he received intelligence that Roberts and his three ships were in an adjoining bay, whereupon he took in his lower tier of guns, and, appearing in sight, the pirates mistook him for a merchantman, and one of the ships slipped their cable, and gave chase. Captain Ogle crowded sail to draw his pursuer to such a distance that his confederates might not hear the report of the guns; which, as soon as he had reached, he instantly tacked, run out his lower tier, and poured his broadside into the pirate, which killed the commander Skyrin; notwithstanding which, the engagement was supported for an hour and an half, when she struck. Captain Ogle then bent his course back to the bay, and, to deceive the other two ships, he hoisted the king's colours under the pirate's

black flag, with a death's head in it. This stratagem succeeded, for the pirates seeing the black flag uppermost, concluded the king's ship had been taken, and quitted their harbour to congratulate their consort on his victory. But they soon found their mistake, when a desperate engagement ensued, which continued for near two hours. Roberts, whose determined bravery had till then rendered the contest doubtful, was at length killed, when the exertions of his adherents immediately abated, and both ships soon after struck. Captain Ogle carried his prizes into Cape Coast-castle, having taken one hundred and sixty men on-board the three ships. Here the prisoners were brought to their trials, seventy-four of them were capitally convicted, of these fifty-two were executed, and most of them hung in chains along the coast. This act of justice had a very good effect in suppressing that spirit of rapine which was too ready to break out; as the taking several pirates in the West-Indies, towards the latter end of the same year, did in those seas. But these successes were far from putting an end to the mischief, so that it was found necessary, soon after, to send several ships of war to the northern colonies and to Jamaica, which, by degrees, extirpated this dangerous crew of robbers.

The British government were informed, that the emissaries of the pretender were very busy in carrying on their intrigues at several foreign courts, and that they had fitted out a ship, called the Resolution, which then lay in the mole of Genoa. Orders were hereupon dispatched, to the captains of such English ships of war as were cruising in the Mediterranean, to seize and possess themselves of this vessel, which they performed in the beginning of the month of November. But though the ship was secured, the officers escaped.

The parliament having met on the 9th of October, the house of commons, on the 24th of the same month, granted

granted ten thousand men for the sea-service, at four pounds per month, for the year 1723; and, soon after, the king promoted Captain Charles Strickland to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, in the room of Admiral Mighells, who was appointed comptroller of the navy; and, Admiral Littleton dying the fifth of February, Rear-admiral Strickland succeeded him as vice-admiral of the white; and Sir George Walton was made rear-admiral of the blue, the other admirals taking place according to their seniority.

The year 1723 was remarkable for the death of the Duke of Orleans, regent of France, who since the decease of Louis XIV. had ruled that nation with the most absolute authority. From the infirm constitution of the infant king, he had conceived hopes of ascending the throne, and concerted his measures accordingly, by entering into close friendship with Great Britain and other powers, to enable him to oppose the pretensions of Philip of Spain, who in that case would have been his competitor. But how vain are the schemes of human ambition! Louis XV. as he advanced towards manhood, became healthy and robust, and the aspiring regent was cut off in an instant by an apoplexy, in the 50th year of his age. The Duke of Bourbon succeeded as prime minister of France, whose elevation did not at all change the pacific disposition of that court towards Great Britain.

In the beginning of the next year, Philip king of Spain, grown weary of the crown he had laboured so assiduously to acquire, determined to renounce the world, and retired with his queen to the monastery of St. Ildefonso. Hereupon he sent the Marquis of Grimaldi, his principal secretary of state, to his son the Prince of Asturias, with a solemn renunciation of the crown, and a letter of advice, in which he exhorted him to cultivate the blessed virgin with the warmest devotion, and put himself and his kingdoms under her protection. The renunciation was published through
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the whole monarchy of Spain; and the council of Castile resolved, that Louis, the young prince, might assume the reins of government without assembling the cortes.

On the 20th of April, 1725, a petition was presented to the house by the Lord Finch, in behalf of Henry St. John lord viscount Bolingbroke, praying, that the execution of the law with respect to his forfeiture might be suspended, as a pardon had already suspended it with respect to his life. Mr. Walpole hereupon signified to the house, by his majesty's command, that seven years before, the petitioner had made his humble application and submission to the king, with assurances of duty, allegiance, and fidelity. That, from his behaviour since that time, his majesty was convinced of his being a fit object of his mercy; and consented to his petitioning the house. The petition being read, Mr. Walpole declared himself fully satisfied, that the petitioner had sufficiently atoned for his past offences, and therefore deserved the favour of that house, so far as to enable him to enjoy the family inheritance that was settled upon him, which he could not do by virtue of his majesty's pardon, without an act of parliament. Lord Finch moved, that a bill might be brought in for this purpose; and was warmly opposed by Mr. Methuen, comptroller of the household, who represented Bolingbroke as a monster of iniquity. His remonstrance was supported by Lord William Powlet and Mr. Onslow; notwithstanding this opposition, the bill was passed through both houses, and received the royal assent.

The public tranquillity was now threatened to be again disturbed by a new system of politics being adopted by the powers upon the continent. The King of Spain died soon after his accession to the throne, which drew his father Philip from his monastic retreat, and led him to resume that crown which he had surrendered. He was no sooner reinstated in his regal dignity,

dignity, than he gave up the reins of government to the entire management of his queen, who possessed an active enterprising spirit, and whose ambition was unbounded. The infanta of Spain had been contracted in marriage to the French king; but that monarch conceived so violent a dislike to his consort, that he determined to send her back, the nuptials not having been consummated. The Queen of Spain resented this insult offered to her daughter, and, in revenge, dismissed Mademoiselle de Beaujolois, one of the regent's daughters, who had been betrothed to her son Don Carlos. A peace between the courts of Vienna and Madrid was concluded at Vienna by the Duke de Ripperda, on the part of his Catholic majesty. By this treaty the emperor agreed to acknowledge Philip as King of Spain and the Indies; and engaged to offer him no molestation in the possession of those dominions that were secured to him by the treaty of Utrecht. On the other hand, Philip renounced all pretensions to the dominions in Italy, and the Netherlands, which the emperor held. At the same time a treaty of commerce was signed, by which the subjects of Austria were entitled to advantages in trade with Spain, superior to any other nation: the King of Spain guaranteed the Ostend East-India company; and agreed to pay an annual subsidy of four millions of piastres to the emperor.

King George could not remain a calm spectator of this close alliance, formed between two powers, one of which the arms and treasure of Great Britain had been employed to raise upon the ruin of the other. To counteract this new confederacy, a defensive treaty was entered into between Great Britain, France, and Prussia, and concluded at Hanover in the month of September, 1725. Hereby the dominions, possessed by the contracting parties, were mutually guaranteed, as well as the commercial interests of each power. King George, in his return from Hanover, after having ratified this alliance, embarked on-board the *Carolina*

lina yacht, at Helvoetsluys, on New Year's Day, 1726, with a fair wind at north-east, and sailed immediately: a few hours after he had got out to sea, a violent storm arose, which dispersed the fleet, so that only one man of war, commanded by Captain Danſie, kept company with the king's yacht, on-board of which was Sir John Norris. This tempest continued with unabating fury for thirty-six hours, so that the whole fleet, as well as the royal yacht, were exposed to the most imminent danger. On the 3d of January, in the morning, the winds subsided, when the yachts and the men of war that convoyed them were near Dover; the king that same day landed at Rye, and proceeded from thence to London. On the 20th the parliament met, on which occasion the king in his speech took notice of the engagements which had been entered into by some foreign powers, which seemed to threaten Europe with fresh troubles and commotions, and particularly to deprive Great Britain of some beneficial branches of her commerce. These proceedings he observed had obliged him to concert with other powers, such measures as might give a check to the ambitious views of those who were endeavouring to render themselves formidable, and put a stop to the farther progress of such dangerous designs. He added, that the enemies of his government were already very busy by their instruments and emissaries in those courts, whose measures seemed most to favour their purposes, in soliciting and promoting the cause of the pretender.

On the 26th of January, the house of commons resolved, that ten thousand men be employed for the sea-service, for the year 1726, at four pounds a-man per month, for thirteen months. The 23d of February they resolved, that 212,381l. 5s. be granted for the ordinary of the navy for the same year. But, this provision being not thought sufficient, his majesty, on the 24th of March, sent a message to the house of commons,

mons, importing, that he found it necessary to augment his maritime force, and hoped he should be enabled, by the assistance of parliament, to encrease the number of seamen already voted, and granted for the service of this year, that he might thereby, not only secure to his subjects the full and free enjoyment of their trade and navigation, but, in the best manner, prevent and frustrate such designs as had been formed against the particular interest of this nation, and the general peace of Europe. Upon this message, a very warm debate ensued, which issued in an address from the house to his majesty, desiring that he would be pleased to make such an addition to the number of seamen already voted, and to concert such other measures, as he, in his great wisdom, should think most conducive to the security of the trade and navigation of this kingdom, and to the preservation of the peace of Europe; assuring his majesty, that they would effectually provide for, and make good, all such expences and engagements as should be entered into for obtaining those great and desirable ends.

As soon as the courts of Vienna and Madrid apprehended that their views were crossed, and the ends proposed by their conjunction disappointed, by the counter-alliance at Hanover, they immediately resolved to have recourse to foreign negotiations, in order to encrease the number of their allies; and, when they found themselves sufficiently powerful, they designed to have resorted to open force. With a view to render this scheme effectual, the emperor began to execute some projects in the north, in which he met, at first, with extraordinary success. The Czarina Catharine, relict of the Czar Peter the Great, had conceived a distaste to the British court, and had, by some Scottish people about her, been drawn to believe it might prove no difficult task to overturn the government in Great Britain, and place the Chevalier de St. George on that throne. The same scheme had been

proposed at the Imperial court, by some of the ministers; information of which having been given to the court of London, his majesty took notice of it in his speech. The Spanish court readily adopted that, or any other expedient which might procure them Gibraltar, and facilitate their acquisitions in Italy, then, and still the great objects of their policy.

Such being the posture of affairs, it was resolved in council to send a strong fleet into the Baltic, to overawe the czarina, whilst another squadron should sail to the coast of Spain, and a third to the West-Indies. The command of the armament for the north was given to Sir Charles Wager, under whom was Sir George Walton. It consisted of twenty-two ships of the line, one frigate, and an hospital-ship. The admiral hoisted his flag on-board the *Torbay*, a third-rate, at the Nore, on the 13th of April, 1726, and on the 17th set sail, and arrived in Copenhagen-road on the 25th. Here he was joined by some Danish men of war, and had the honour to entertain the prince royal of Denmark on-board his ship. From Copenhagen Sir Charles proceeded to Stockholm, where his fleet anchored on the 6th of May. After having had an audience of his Swedish majesty, the admiral steered towards Revel, and took the first opportunity that offered, of sending a letter which the King of Great Britain had written to the czarina, enclosed in one to her admiral Apraxin. The king, in this letter, expostulated very freely on the subject of the czarina's armaments by sea and land, and on the intrigues into which her ministers had lately entered with the agents of the pretender. The court of Russia was highly displeased at this appearance of a British fleet on their coast; but, not having a force sufficient to oppose it, they reluctantly refrained from acts of hostility; however, the answer which her imperial majesty returned, was strongly expressive of displeasure. Sir Charles Wager continued off Revel till the 28th of September, when,

when, having received certain intelligence that the Russians had laid up their ships in their winter harbour, he returned to Copenhagen, and from thence sailed for England, where he arrived on the first of November.

The fleet under Sir John Jennings, which was destined to cruise off the coast of Spain, consisted of nine large men of war, which were afterwards joined by several ships from the Mediterranean. The admiral sailed from St. Helen's on the 28th of July, having on board a body of land forces. On the 3d of August he entered the bay of St. Antonio, and spread consternation among the Spaniards. On the 25th of the same month, the fleet arrived off Lisbon. The King of Portugal signifying his desire of seeing our admiral, he went on shore, and waited on his most faithful majesty; then re-embarking, he sailed for the Bay of Bulls, near Cadiz, and cruised off Cape St. Mary, yet carefully avoiding all acts of hostility. The Spanish governor of Cadiz treated him with great civility, and supplied him with refreshments. After remaining for some time on this station, the admiral returned to England, having fully effected the purposes for which the expedition was undertaken. The councils of Spain were at that time divided: in the cabinet a party prevailed, which breathed nothing but a rupture with Great Britain, whilst many members there opposed such desperate measures, as big with danger. The Duke de Ripperda, a native of Holland, who had renounced the protestant religion, and embraced that of the church of Rome, having entered into the service of the King of Spain, rapidly advanced through the different gradations of power, until he became prime minister, and the favourite of his sovereign: this man, whom we have already seen negotiate the treaty with the Imperial court, was suspected of having divulged the secrets of the cabinet to the English minister residing at Madrid, and narrowly escaped

with his life; he was, however, by the assistance of Colonel Stanhope, the British ambassador, afterwards Earl of Harrington, enabled to escape out of the kingdom.

The third expedition, under Rear-admiral Hosier, still remains to be treated of. He sailed for the West-Indies with seven ships of the line, on the 9th of April, 1726, having instructions to block up the galleons in their ports; or, if they ventured out, to seize them, and bring them to England. Although he had a quick passage, yet the Spaniards had received previous notice of his destination; so that, before his arrival at the Bastimentos near Porto-Bello, the treasure which had been put on-board the galleons, and which amounted to six millions and a half sterling, was re-landed, and carried back to Panama, on the other side the isthmus. On the 6th of June, Rear-admiral Hosier anchored within sight of Porto-Bello; the governor of which place thereupon sent to know his demands. Hosier answered, that he waited for the Royal George, a large South-Sea ship, then in the harbour, which had disposed of all her cargo, and had a very large sum of money on-board. The Spaniards, in order to get rid of so disagreeable an observer, caused her immediately to depart, whereby the ship, and the wealth she had on-board, were secured. The consequences which they expected, however, did not follow. The admiral continued on the same station for six months, during which time his seamen were swept off by diseases, contracted through the unhealthiness of the climate; and his ships were so eaten by the worms as to be in a very ruinous condition. He was then obliged to return to Jamaica, where he again manned his fleet, by a number of seamen whom he found there unemployed. He put to sea in two months, and stood over to Carthagena, but the Spaniards had by this time recovered from the panic into which they had been thrown at his first appearance; they

they did not scruple to seize the Prince Frederic, a South-Sea ship, then at La Vera Cruz, with all the vessels and effects belonging to that company. Hosier in vain demanded restitution, after which he took some Spanish ships, by way of reprisal, which proved to be of no great value. This brave officer, after having remained some months on this unserviceable and destructive station, was seized with a distemper of which he afterwards died. The nation loudly complained of the manner in which this expedition was conducted, and saw, with extreme regret, a number of valuable seamen destroyed, and a fine squadron rendered totally useless, by measures injudiciously concerted.

In the mean time, the King of Spain purchased ships of war, and began to make preparations for some important undertaking. He likewise assembled an army at St. Rook, which amounted to twenty thousand men, under pretence of rebuilding the old castle of Gibraltar. The alliance which had been formed at Hanover underwent some changes, the States-general and the King of Sweden acceding to it, and the King of Prussia, though son-in-law to the King of Great Britain, withdrawing himself, and even leagu- ing with the emperor. The Count de las Torres, who commanded the Spanish army, actually laid siege to Gibraltar by land, towards the close of the year 1726.

The parliament met on the 17th of January; and, soon after the house of commons voted twenty thousand men for the sea-service, and 199,071*l.* for the ordinary of the navy; the land-tax was fixed at four shillings in the pound.

The Imperial resident at London presented an angry memorial to the king, in which the emperor, his master, was justified in entering into the alliance with Spain, which had given such umbrage to the court of London. The conduct of Spain in laying siege to Gibraltar was defended; and the impending rupture was

was roundly imputed to the conduct of the king of Great Britain. Both houses of parliament expressed their indignation at this insulting paper, and the imperial minister was ordered immediately to quit the kingdom.

In this posture of affairs, the king entered into a closer alliance with the court of France, took ten thousand Swedish troops into British pay, and concluded a fresh treaty with the king of Denmark: he also made a convention with the Prince of Hesse Cassel.

On the 11th of February, 1727, the trenches were opened before Gibraltar; a numerous garrison, well provided, defended the place. A small squadron was prepared at Portsmouth to sail with succours, and Sir Charles Wager hoisted his flag on-board the *Kent*. The Earl of Portmore, who was governor, embarked on-board the admiral's ship, and a reinforcement was put on-board the fleet for the garrison. Sir Charles arrived the beginning of April, and joined Rear-admiral Hosier, who lay in the harbour, the communication by sea remaining open. When the troops from England were landed, the garrison amounted to six thousand men, including five hundred that had arrived from Minorca. Fresh provisions in great abundance were obtained from the coast of Barbary, so that the efforts of the besiegers were regarded only with contempt.

The latter end of April Sir John Norris was sent into the Baltic, and, on his arrival there, he was joined by a Danish squadron. The death of the czarina, which happened on the 17th of May, prevented any act of hostilities being committed, and, in consequence of that event, the fleet of Russia was laid up in harbour.

Notwithstanding these appearances of a widely-extended war, yet the belligerent powers secretly dreaded the consequences of a rupture; and each of them
earnestly

earnestly wished for the re-establishment of tranquillity. The King of France interposed his mediation to prevent Europe being again embroiled, and the Duke of Richelieu, his ambassador at Vienna, first proposed a plan of pacification. At length, all parties agreed to twelve preliminary articles, which were signed at Paris, in the month of May, by the ministers of the Hanover alliance, and afterwards at Vienna, by the Imperial and Spanish ambassadors. They imported, that hostilities should immediately cease; that the charter of the Ostend Company should be suspended for seven years, and that a congress should in four months be opened at Aix-la-Chapelle, for adjusting all differences, and consolidating the peace of Europe. This congress was afterwards transferred to Soissons, for the convenience of the French minister, whose presence was necessary at court. The siege of Gibraltar was raised, after it had continued four months, during which time the Spaniards had lost a great number of men by sickness, while the garrison sustained very little loss. Some new difficulties were afterwards started by the court of Madrid, who refused to deliver up the South-Sea ship which had been detained at la Vera Cruz, so that Sir Charles Wager continued to cruize on the coast of Spain: but these and some other objections were removed in the sequel; and such a reconciliation as treaties could procure was the consequence: a temporary peace ensued; both sides only watching an opportunity to renew hostilities with advantage.

Soon after the breaking up of the parliament in the year 1727, the king resolved to visit his electoral dominions of Hanover. Having appointed a regency in his absence, he embarked for Holland, and lay upon his landing at a little town called Voet. Next day he proceeded on his journey; and in two days more, between ten and eleven at night, arrived at Delden, to all appearance in perfect health. He supped there
very

very heartily, and continued his journey early the next morning: but between eight and nine, ordered his coach to stop. It being perceived that one of his hands lay motionless, Monsieur Fabrice, who had formerly been servant to the King of Sweden, and who now attended King George, attempted to quicken the circulation, by chafing it between his own. As this had no effect, the surgeon who followed on horseback was called, and he rubbed it with spirits. Soon after, the king's tongue began to swell, and he had just strength enough to bid them hasten to Osnaburgh. Then, falling insensible into Fabrice's arms, he never recovered; but expired about eleven o'clock the next morning, in the 68th year of his age and 13th of his reign. His body was conveyed to Hanover, and interred among his ancestors.

George I. was a prince of great virtues; and had many qualities truly amiable. He was very well acquainted with the general interest of all the princes in Europe, and particularly well versed in whatever related to German affairs, with respect to which, he always acted as a true patriot, and a firm friend to the constitution of the empire. If he ever sacrificed the interests of Great Britain to foreign politics, his ministers stand accountable for the transgression, as he always declared an intention to govern according to the laws, and with no other view than the general good of his people. He was allowed, by the best judges of military talents, to be an excellent officer. He was very capable of application, and understood business as well as any prince of his time. In his amusements, he was easy and familiar, of a temper very sensible of the services that were rendered him; firm in his friendships, naturally averse to violent measures, and as compassionate as any prince that ever sat upon a throne.

George I. had married the Princess Sophia Dorothy, daughter and heiress of the Duke of Zell, by whom

whom he had King George II. and the late Queen of Prussia. The king's body was conveyed to Hanover, and interred among his ancestors. From the death of Charles II. to this period, England had made a considerable figure in every branch of literature. Dr. Atterbury and Dr. Clarke distinguished themselves in divinity.—Mr. Whiston wrote in defence of Arianism; John Locke shone forth the great restorer of human reason; the Earl of Shaftesbury raised an elegant, though feeble, system of moral philosophy; Berkeley, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, in Ireland, surpassed all his contemporaries in subtlety and variety in metaphysical arguments, as well as in the art of deduction; Lord Bolingbroke's talents as a metaphysician have been questioned since his posthumous works appeared. Great progress was made in mathematics and astronomy, by Wallis, Halley, and Flamsteed; the art of medicine owed some valuable improvements to the classical Dr. Friend, and the elegant Dr. Mead.—Among the poets of this æra, we number John Phillips, author of a didactic poem, called Cyder, a performance of real merit; he lived and died in obscurity.—William Congreve, celebrated for his comedies, which are not so famous for strength of character and power of humour, as for wit, elegance, and regularity; Vanburgh, who wrote with more nature and fire, though with less art and precision; Steele, who in his comedies successfully engrafted modern characters on the ancient drama; Farquhar, who drew his pictures from fancy rather than from nature, and whose chief merit consists in the agreeable pertness and vivacity of his dialogue. Addison, whose fame as a poet greatly exceeded his genius, which was cold and enervate; though he yielded to none in the character of an essayist, either for style or matter. Swift, whose muse seems to have been mere misanthropy; he was a cynic rather than a poet, and his natural dryness and sarcastic severity would have been unpleasing, had he

not qualified them, by adopting the extravagant humour of Lucian and Rabelais. Prior was lively, familiar, and amusing; Rowe, solemn, florid, and declamatory. Pope, the prince of lyric poetry, unrivalled in satire, ethics, and polished versification. Gay, whose fables may vie with those of La Fontaine, in native humour, ease and simplicity; and whose genius for pastoral was truly original. Dr. Bentley stood foremost in the list of critics and commentators. Sir Christopher Wren raised some noble monuments of architecture.—The most remarkable political writers were Davenant, Hare, Swift, Steel, Addison, Bolingbroke, and Trenchard.

We shall now proceed to take notice of some of the most important commercial events that happened during this reign.

In 1715, the parliament passed an act for enlarging the fund of the bank of England, relating particularly to exchequer bills. This was commonly called the aggregate fund, though not applied to constitute a part of the general sinking fund for lessening the national debts until three years after. By another act of the same session, the capital stock and yearly fund of the South-Sea Company were enlarged. Queen Anne had informed her parliament a little before her death, that her quarter part of the assiento-contract with Spain was delivered up to the South-Sea Company, but, this not having been formally conveyed, King George confirmed that grant soon after his accession, as also of four ships, two of which were for the purpose of carrying out the company's goods, factors, &c. the other two were ships of war to escort them thither. These ships sailed to America the beginning of the year 1715. The port to which the company were allowed to trade, and at which to settle factories, were Panama, in the South-Sea; Porto Bello, Cartagena, and Vera Cruz, in the Atlantic Ocean; Buenos-Ayres, on the Rio de la Plata; and the port of Havana,

nah, in the island of Cuba; besides their inland factories in New Spain, and their agents at Jamaica, as well as at Cadiz and Madrid, in Old Spain.

A bill was brought into the house of commons for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and of his majesty's plantations there; the principal scope of which was for the reducing all the proprietary charter-governments into regal ones. Ever since the death of Charles II. when the proprietary colonies began to be considerable, and more especially since the revolution, the administration had it in contemplation to purchase from the proprietors their territorial rights. Overtures were therefore made, and a treaty was set on foot with William Penn, for the purchase of his fine province of Pennsylvania. He demanded twenty thousand pounds, and Queen Anne, in council, referred the matter to the consideration of the lords of the treasury. The terms were at length agreed upon, and twelve thousand pounds was the price to be paid for that province; soon after which the proprietor was seized with an apoplexy, which prevented the completion of the bargain, until by the queen's order a bill should be brought into parliament for that purpose. Whilst that bill was depending in parliament, Mr. Joshua Gee and others, who were mortgagees under Penn, petitioned the house of commons for relief, and, in discussing the business, such difficulties arose, as occasioned the bill to be thrown out. When the subject came now to be revived, each proprietor shewed a great reluctance to alienate his possessions. The guardians of Lord Baltimore, then a minor, petitioned the house that Maryland might be excepted in the grant of American provinces which the bill was designed to convey. The revenue arising from the civil government of that province they stated to amount to three thousand pounds per annum. A like petition was presented by the agent for the provinces of Massachusetts Bay

and Connecticut; the former of which represented that it derived its charter from King James I. which was afterwards confirmed by King Charles I. whereby the governor and company of the Massachusetts Bay are empowered to appoint their own officers, civil and military, with other privileges. It set forth, that in the reign of James II. their charter was vacated, at the same time that many corporations in England were disfranchised; that after the revolution, King William restored the charter, only reserving to himself the appointment of a governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary, judge of the admiralty, and the attorney-general, which charter the province then enjoyed. They therefore humbly conceive, that the charter of their province, being on the same footing with the corporations in England, it seems equally hard to divest them of it, as it would be to disfranchise the corporations at home. They farther urged, that the province had given a valuable consideration to the crown for their charter, viz. the subduing and planting a wilderness, at a vast expence, and with the loss of many lives, whereby they had added a large territory to the crown, as well as greatly increased the trade and commerce of Britain. That they had at no time abused the power which they possess, by exercising it in an oppressive and unwarrantable manner, (which was alleged against the lords proprietors of Carolina, and caused this bill to be brought into parliament;) neither have they neglected the defence of the inhabitants, but on the contrary have well defended both themselves and their neighbours in a long French and Indian war; and their ordinary charge for guards, garrisons, guardships, &c. has been thirty-five thousands one year with another. And, though hereby the province has contracted a debt of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, yet they do not complain, nor are they burdensome to the crown, but are paying it off yearly by degrees; but, if they be deprived of their charter, no compensation

sation can be made for it, whereas in the case of proprietary governments, an equivalent can be given to the proprietors; but here it cannot be, because the privileges are not vested in particular persons, but in the body of the people. The petition of the colony of Connecticut was exactly similar. Petitions were also presented in behalf of the Duke of Beaufort and Lord Craven, both minors, to be heard by counsel against the passing of the said bill, they being considerable proprietors in Carolina and the Bahama Islands; as also from the agent of Rhode Island and Providence plantation in New England. These were referred to the committee to whom the bill was committed, and most probably occasioned the bill to be dropped.

The state of commerce carried on with the northern kingdoms may be estimated by the following account of the imports and exports.

Imported into Great Britain in the Year 1716.

From Denmark and Norway, in	}	£
masts, timber, pitch, and tar,		
hemp, &c.	}	73,892
Prussia and Livonia, in masts,		
hemp, linen, &c.	}	103,639
Sweden, iron, pitch, tar, masts,		
&c.	}	136,959
Russia, hemp, pitch, tar, masts,		
&c.	}	197,270
		511,769

Exported from Great Britain.

To Denmark and Norway	-	60,317
To the East Country	-	65,293
To Sweden	-	24,101
To Russia	-	113,154
		262,865

Total balance, or loss to Great Britain 248,895

In

In the year 1717, the interest paid on the public debts was reduced from six to five per cent. in order gradually to lessen the national debts. For this purpose, the government treated with the Bank and South-Sea companies, to whom a great part of the national debts was due, and brought them to agree, not only for this reduction of the interest on their own respective capitals, but that the bank should advance or lend to the public, when wanted, two millions five hundred thousand pounds, and the South-Sea company the sum of two millions, at five per cent. interest; to be in readiness for paying off such of the proprietors of certain redeemable annuities, as should demand their principal money to be paid them, instead of accepting of five per cent. in lieu of their present interest. Three acts of parliament passed the third year of King George, for this purpose. This plan succeeded to admiration; for all the proprietors of those redeemable debts acquiesced in the reduction of their interest, so that government had no occasion to borrow any part of the sums ready to be advanced by the two companies. The most incontestable proof of the wealth of the kingdom, which had so far reduced what is usually called the natural interest of money, or that rate of interest at which money might now be borrowed on good private security.

These savings to the public first laid the foundation for the sinking fund, and which then amounted to 323,434l. 7s. 7d. per annum. This fund, formed on the best principle of public utility, was composed entirely of the surplusses or savings out of those funds, by the several reductions now and afterwards made, in the rates of interest and allowances to the companies for transacting the business of government. These regulations did not lower the prices of the different stocks at market, for at Michaelmas, 1717, they considerably rose in their price; South-Sea stock, which at Lady-day was at one hundred three-fourths per cent. was at Michaelmas

Michaelmas one hundred and eleven and a half per cent.

In the year 1717, the South-Sea company's first annual ship, the Royal Prince, was laden, and sailed for la Vera Cruz; and on March, 1718, the South-Sea company's second great annual ship was launched, and named the Royal George, in honour of the king, who was governor of the company. But the war with Spain put an effectual stop to that company's commerce to the Spanish West-Indies, where their effects, factors, and servants, were seized and detained, by which they were supposed to have lost upwards of two hundred thousand pounds. And although the company's agent at Madrid represented these causes of complaint in very strong terms to Cardinal Alberoni, who promised, that the company should be indemnified whenever peace should be restored, yet these losses were never effectually made good. And, indeed, many heavy complaints were made of the oppressions practised by the Spanish governors, in direct violation of the *asiento* treaty. The cargo of one of their ships which arrived at Carthagena was confiscated, on the pretext of over-tonnage, although it afterwards appeared, on re-measurement, that its cargo was below the stipulated tonnage. Indeed, when this was ascertained, the company recovered their property, but they were obliged to make their appeal in Europe, which caused heavy expences; and, when the matter was decided, the market was lost. Another of their ships, called the Elizabeth, which arrived at Vera Cruz, had a very heavy duty laid on it there, although, according to the treaty, it was subject to no duty whatsoever.

About this time pig and bar iron began first to be made in the province of Virginia, and of a very good staple or kind; which has since been much improved.

From August, 1715, to August, 1716, the coinage at the Tower amounted to 1,542,155*l.* in gold, and only 7000*l.*

7000*l.* in silver. It was reckoned, that near two-thirds of that gold was from French Louis d'ors melted down.

About the year 1719, one Captain Barlow was sent out, by certain private adventurers, to discover a north-west passage to China, through Hudson's Bay, which proved a most unfortunate attempt, for neither he nor any of his company were ever heard of; yet a part of the wreck of his ship were said to be found in that bay, in the latitude of sixty-three degrees north.

It was computed, that from the year 1711 to 1719, both years included, there had been exported from England to the East-Indies, in foreign silver bullion, the sum of 3,786,005*l.* which, on a medium, is, one year with another, 420,667*l.* annually.

In the 5th year of King George I. a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Lambe, for the sole and exclusive property for fourteen years, of a wonderful machine for silk throwing, which had been some time before erected by his brother, on the river Derwent, at Derby, by mills which work three capital engines. This amazingly grand machine contains twenty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-six wheels, and ninety-seven thousand seven hundred and forty-six movements, which work seventy-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-six yards of organize silk thread every time the water mill-goes round, being thrice in one minute, and three hundred and eighteen millions five hundred and four thousand nine hundred and sixty yards in one day and night. One water-wheel gives motion to all the movements, of which any one may be stopped separately, without obstructing the rest. One fire-engine conveys warm air to every individual part of this vast machine, containing in all its buildings half a quarter of a mile in length. The model of it is said to have been taken by Mr. Lambe, from the original in Piedmont, under the disguise of a common workman; he having secretly drawn its plan
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on paper, and then made his escape to England. These engines have saved vast sums to the nation, which were formerly paid for organize or thrown sick, to the Piedmontese, altogether in ready money. When the term of this patent expired, the patentee applied to parliament, stating, that he had not derived sufficient advantage therefrom, and offering to disclose the secret of the construction for a reasonable sum of money. By an act of the fifth George II. 14,000*l.* was granted to him from the public, as a consideration for the eminent services he had done the nation, in discovering, introducing, and bringing to full perfection, at his own great expence, a work so useful and beneficial to the kingdom. This act provides, that his majesty shall direct proper persons to view the engines, and to take an exact model thereof; to be deposited in such place as he shall appoint, to secure and perpetuate the art for the advantage of the nation.

It appeared by an enquiry in the house of commons, when the South Sea company's bill was under discussion there, that the propensity to set on foot new projects had been very prevalent for two or three years past. Among the many abortive schemes started, two of a more mature growth were brought into existence, and continue to this day. A charter was granted to certain private gentlemen and merchants, to form themselves into a body corporate. by the name they still bear, of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company; its capital consisting of five hundred thousand pounds. Another association was likewise incorporated for insuring ships and merchandize, by the name of the London Assurance Company. Its first subscription was two millions, and its present stock or capital consists of thirty-six thousand shares, on each of which twelve pounds ten shillings was originally paid. Thus arose the two very useful and flourishing insurance corporations, who also are empowered to lend money upon bottomree, and each of

them afterwards obtained charters for insuring from loss by fire. For the obtaining their charter, each company paid three hundred thousand pounds for discharging the king's civil list debts; but part of that sum was afterwards remitted.

On the 28th of August, 1722, an hurricane happened at Jamaica, which is said to have been the most remarkable that ever was known in that island. Great numbers of the inhabitants were crushed by the sudden fall of their houses, but many more were swept away by an overwhelming inundation of the sea, which being raised by the violence of the wind to a much greater height than was ever known before, broke down the mounds which fenced it off, and spread destruction over a large track of country. In this calamity, the town of Port Royal was particularly involved. At Kingston great damage was done by the force of the wind, but that town was safe from the inroads of the sea. All the vessels that rode in its harbour, however, which were between forty and fifty sail, were either driven on shore, or overset, or sunk; many large ships with all their lading were thrown quite upon dry land; and the next day, when the storm abated, nothing was to be seen in the harbour but wrecks and dead bodies. At Spanish Town the houses were unroofed, and many blown down, but fortunately no lives were lost. The damage which the trading part of the island sustained by the loss of their shipping and goods was immense, whilst the planters were reduced to the most distressed circumstances by the loss of their dwelling-houses and sugar-works. Had the fury of the tempest continued some hours longer, the whole island would have become one general wreck, and nothing short of final and universal ruin would have ensued.

In the same year, the king granted a patent to John Duke of Montagu, of the West-India islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The duke hereupon sent out
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six ships, freighted with stores, and having on-board a number of settlers: these no sooner arrived at St. Lucia, than the French governor of Martinico sent an express, to signify, that they must withdraw from the island in fifteen days, the French king having directed that St. Lucia as well as St. Vincent should remain in their former neutral condition, until a final decision should be made between the two crowns. To enforce which, two thousand men were landed at St. Lucia from Martinico, so that the attempt at making the settlement was laid aside. This expedition is supposed to have cost the duke no less than forty thousand pounds, being the greatest and most expensive undertaking ever entered upon by any one subject in Christendom, on his own proper risk.

In the year 1725, the South-Sea company commenced a whale fishery, in which they employed twelve new ships. They brought home twenty-five whales and a half; but, during the eight years in which they followed this branch of trade, they were in no year so successful. The expences attending this undertaking were greatly enhanced by the English having long relinquished the trade, so that the company were obliged to procure their commanders, harpooners, boat-steerers, line-veerers, &c. from Holstein, which cost upwards of three thousand pounds annually, although not above one hundred and fifty in number.

In the year 1726, a new charter was granted to the East-India company, by which they were empowered to erect a corporation at fort St. George, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Madrapatan, in the East-Indies, and another corporation at or within the factory and town of Bombay, by the name of mayor and aldermen of Bombay. Also a third corporation, within the factory of Fort William, in Bengal, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Calcutta, at Fort William, in Bengal; with perpetual succession to each of

the three corporations, and a common seal. The charter further empowered them to make bye-laws, and to try causes both civil and military, high-treason excepted.

In the last year of the reign of George I. an act of parliament was passed, to authorize the South-Sea company to purchase negroes at Madagascar, having first obtained the licence and consent of the East-India company, within the limits of whose trade that island was supposed to be situated. These they were to convey immediately to Buenos Ayres, and on no account to dispose of them within the limits of the East-India company's jurisdiction. Four ships were allowed to sail upon his trade, and the term granted the company by this act extended to six years.

At Midsummer, 1727, the reduction of the interest on the national debts from five to four per cent. took place, whereby the sinking-fund was increased to above one million per annum. Had the ministry from that period scrupulously adhered to the paying off, at least, one million per annum of the public debts, from this time, until the breaking out of the war with Spain in 1739, the restrictions laid on trade and commerce would by that time have been essentially lessened; but frugality, in such a mixed government as ours, is little attended to by the executive power, which aims too much at strengthening the authority of the crown, by means of an unwieldy national debt. Hence it is, that the sinking-fund has been, either directly or indirectly, sacrilegiously and wantonly violated, whence many taxes, duties, and customs, which were designed only to serve as a temporary expedient, have been perpetuated, and thereby become heavy clogs on our manufactures and foreign commerce. It has been calculated, that the sinking-fund, if it had been applied to the discharge of the national debt, at the rate above given, of a million a-year, when that debt amounted to fifty mil-

lions,

lions, supposing it at four per cent. interest, and the sinking-fund increasing annually in like proportion, as such a sum would do, if put out at compound interest, the whole national debt would have been discharged by the year 1756.

About this time, the French first began to supply, in considerable quantities, the European markets with their sugars from Martinico, St. Domingo, and other settlements, which markets had formerly been entirely supplied by the English. And, in a few years after, by their extraordinary assiduity, they gained from us almost all, or the greatest part of, that very profitable branch of commerce.

It was during this reign that the practice of inoculation for the small-pox was introduced into England from Turkey. Prince Frederic, the two Princesses, Amelia and Carolina, the Duke of Bedford and his sister, with many other persons of distinction, underwent this operation with success.

OF THE WARS OF ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE II.

AT the accession of George II. the nation had great reason to wish for an alteration of measures. The public debt, notwithstanding the boasted œconomy and management of the ministers; notwithstanding the sinking-fund, which had been extolled as a growing treasure, sacred to the discharge of national incumbrances; was now increased to 50,261,206l. 19s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The kingdom was bewildered in a labyrinth of treaties and conventions, by which it stood engaged in pecuniary subsidies to many powers upon the continent, with whom its real interests could never be connected. The wealth of the nation had been lavished upon those foreign connexions, upon unnecessary wars, and fruitless expeditions. Dangerous encroachments had been made upon the constitution by the repeal of the act for triennial parliaments;

ments; by frequent suspensions of the habeas corpus act upon frivolous occasions; by repealing clauses in the act of settlement; by votes of credit; by habituating the people to a standing army; and, above all, by establishing a system of corruption, which, at all times, would secure a majority in parliament. The nature of prerogative, by which the liberties of the nation had formerly been often endangered, was now so well understood, and so securely restrained, that it could no longer be used for the same oppressive purposes: besides, an avowed extension of the prerogative required more ability, courage, and resolution, than the present ministry could exert. They understood their own strength, and had recourse to a more safe and effectual expedient. The vice, luxury, and prostitution, of the age, the almost total extinction of sentiment, honour, and public spirit, had prepared the minds of men for slavery and corruption. The means were in the hands of the ministry; the public treasure was at their devotion: they multiplied places and pensions, to increase the number of their dependants: they squandered away the money of the nation without discernment, decency, or remorse: they enlisted an army of the most abandoned emissaries, whom they employed to vindicate the worst measures, in the face of truth, common sense, and common honesty; and they did not fail to stigmatize, as jacobites and enemies to the government, all those who presumed to question the merit of their administration.

The interior government of Great Britain was chiefly managed by Sir Robert Walpole, a man of extraordinary talents, who had, from low beginnings, raised himself to the head of the treasury. Having obtained a seat in the lower house, he declared himself one of the most forward partisans of the whig faction. He was endued with a species of eloquence, which, tho' neither nervous nor elegant, flowed with
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great facility, and was so plausible on all subjects, that, even when he misrepresented the truth, whether from ignorance or design, he seldom failed to persuade that part of his audience for whose hearing his harangue was chiefly intended. He was well acquainted with the nature of the public funds, and understood the whole mystery of stock jobbing. This knowledge produced a connexion between him and the money-corporations, which served to enhance his importance. He perceived the bulk of mankind were actuated by a sordid thirst of lucre; he had sagacity enough to convert the degeneracy of the times to his own advantage; and on this, and this alone, he founded the whole superstructure of his subsequent administration. In the late reign he had, by dint of speaking decisively to every question; by boldly impeaching the conduct of the tory ministers; by his activity in elections, and engaging as a projector in the schemes of the monied interest; become a leading member in the house of commons. By his sufferings under the tory parliament, he attained the rank of a martyr to his party; his interest, his reputation, and his presumption, daily increased: he opposed Sunderland as his rival in power, and headed a dangerous defection from the ministry, which evinced the greatness of his influence and authority. He had the glory of being principally concerned in effecting a reconciliation between the late king and the Prince of Wales: then he was re-associated in the administration with additional credit; and, from the death of the Earls of Sunderland and Stanhope, he had been making long strides towards the office of prime minister. He knew the maxims he had adopted would subject him to the hatred, the ridicule, and reproach, of some individuals, who had not yet resigned all sentiments of patriotism, nor all views of opposition: but the number of these was inconsiderable, when compared to that which constituted the
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body of the community; and he would not suffer the consideration of such antagonists to come in competition with his schemes of power, affluence, and authority. Nevertheless, low as he had humbled anti-ministerial association, it required all his artifice to elude, all his patience and natural phlegm to bear, the powerful arguments that were urged, and the keen satire that was exercised, against his measures and management, by a few members in the opposition. Sir William Wyndham possessed all the energy of elocution: Mr. Shippen was calm, intrepid, shrewd, and sarcastic: Mr. Hungerford, sly, insinuating, and ironical. Mr. William Pulteney inherited from nature a good understanding, which he had studiously cultivated. He was one of the most learned members in the house of commons, extremely well qualified to judge of literary productions; well read in history and politics; deeply skilled in the British Constitution, the detail of government, and the nature of the finance. He spoke with freedom, fluency, and uncommon warmth of declamation, which was said to be the effect of personal animosity to Sir Robert, with whom he had been formerly connected. By the following statement from the works of Horace Walpole, it will appear, that the new king really intended a change; but that the abilities of Sir Robert Walpole, joined to the influence of Queen Caroline, prevented it.

“ The unexpected death of George I. on his road to Hanover, was instantly notified by Lord Townshend, secretary of state, who attended his majesty, to his brother, Sir Robert Walpole, who, as expeditiously, was the first to carry the news to the successor, and hail him king. The next step was, to ask who his majesty would please should draw his speech to the council.—‘ Sir Spencer Compton,’ replied the new monarch.—The answer was decisive—and implied Sir Robert’s dismission. Sir Spencer Compton

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was speaker of the house of commons, and treasurer, I think, at that time to his royal highness, who by that first command implied his intention of making Sir Spencer his prime minister. He was a worthy man, of exceedingly grave formality, but of no parts—as his conduct immediately proved. The poor gentleman was so little qualified to accommodate himself to the grandeur of the moment, and to conceive how a new sovereign should address himself to his ministers, and he had also been so far from meditating to supplant the premier, that in his distress it was to Sir Robert himself he had recourse, and whom he besought to make the draught of the king's speech for him. The new queen, a better judge than her husband of the capacities of the two candidates, and who had silently watched for a moment proper for overturning the new designations, did not lose a moment in observing to the king how prejudicial it would be to his affairs, to prefer to the minister in possession a man in whose judgment his predecessor was the fittest person to execute his office. From that moment there was no more question of Sir Spencer Compton as prime minister. He was created an earl, soon received the garter, and became president of that council, at the head of which he was much fitter to sit than to direct. Fourteen years afterward he again was nominated by the same prince to replace Sir Robert as first lord of the treasury, on the latter's forced resignation; but not as prime minister, the conduct of affairs being soon ravished from him by that dashing genius the Earl of Granville, who reduced him to a cypher for the little year in which he survived, and in which his incapacity had been obvious. Sir Spencer Compton, afterward Earl of Wilmington, was so far from resenting Sir Robert's superior talents, that he remained steadfastly attached to him; and, when the famous motion for removing Sir Robert was made in both houses, Lord Wilming-

ton, though confined to his bed, and with his head blistered, rose and went to the house of lords to vote against a measure that avowed its own injustice by being grounded only on popular clamour.

“ The pre-occupation of the queen in favour of Walpole must be explained. He had early discovered, that in whatever gallantries George prince of Wales indulged or affected, even the person of his princess was dearer to him than any charms in his mistresses: and though Mrs. Howard (afterward Lady Suffolk) was openly his declared favorite, as avowedly as the Dutchess of Kendal was his father’s, Sir Robert’s sagacity discerned that the power would be lodged with the wife, not with the mistress; and he not only devoted himself to the princess, but totally abstained from even visiting Mrs. Howard; while the injudicious multitude concluded, that the common consequences of an inconstant husband’s passion for his concubine would follow; and accordingly warmer, if not public, vows were made to the supposed favourite than to the prince’s consort. They especially who in the late reign had been out of favour at court, had, to pave their future path to favour, and to secure the fall of Sir Robert Walpole, sedulously, and no doubt zealously, dedicated themselves to the mistress: Bolinbroke secretly, his friend Swift openly, and as ambitiously, cultivated Mrs. Howard; and the neighbourhood of Pope’s villa to Richmond facilitated their intercourse; though his religion forbade his entertaining views beyond those of serving his friends. Lord Bathurst, another of that connection, and Lord Chesterfield, too early for his interest, founded their hopes on Mrs. Howard’s influence; but, astonished and disappointed at finding Walpole not shaken from his seat, they determined on an experiment that should be the touchstone of Mrs. Howard’s credit. They persuaded her to demand of the new king an earl’s coronet for Lord Bathurst
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—she did—the queen put in her veto—and Swift in despair returned to Ireland, to lament Queen Anne, and curse Queen Caroline, under the mask of patriotism, in a country he abhorred and despised.

“ At the first council held by the new sovereign, Dr. Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury, produced the will of the late king, and delivered it to the successor, expecting it would be opened and read in council. On the contrary, his majesty put it into his pocket, and stalked out of the room, without uttering a word on the subject. The poor prelate was thunderstruck, and had not the presence of mind, or the courage, to demand the testament’s being opened, or at least to have it registered. No man present chose to be more hardy than the person to whom the deposit had been trusted—perhaps none of them immediately conceived the possible violation of so solemn an act so notoriously existent. Still, as the king never mentioned the will more, whispers only by degrees informed the public, that the will was burnt; at least, that its injunctions were never fulfilled. What the contents were was never ascertained. Report said, that forty thousand pounds had been bequeathed to the Duchess of Kendal; and more vague rumours spoke of a large legacy to the Queen of Prussia, daughter of the late king. Of that bequest demands were afterward said to have been frequently and roughly made by her son, the great King of Prussia, between whom and his uncle subsisted much inveteracy. The legacy to the duchess was some time after on the brink of coming to open and legal discussion. Lord Chesterfield marrying her niece and heiress, the Countess of Walsingham, and resenting his own proscription at court, was believed to have instituted, or at least to have threatened, a suit for a recovery of the legacy to the duchess, to which he was then become entitled, and it was as confidently believed, that he was quieted by

the payment of twenty thousand pounds. But, if the archbishop had too timidly betrayed the trust reposed in him from weakness and want of spirit, there were two other men who had no such plea of imbecility, and who, being independent and above being awed, basely sacrificed their honour and integrity for positive sordid gain. George I. had deposited duplicates of his will with two sovereign German princes—I will not specify them, because at this distance of time I do not perfectly recollect their titles; but I was actually some years ago shewn a copy of a letter from one of our ambassadors abroad to a secretary of state at that period, in which the ambassador said, one of the princes in question ‘would accept the proffered subsidy, and had delivered, or would deliver, the duplicate of the king’s will.’ The other trustee was no doubt as little conscientious and as corrupt. It is a pity the late King of Prussia did not learn their infamous treachery!”

The parliament met on the 27th of June, 1727. The great officers of state continued in their places: Sir Robert Walpole kept possession of the treasury; and the system of politics, which the late king established, underwent no sort of alteration.

The king, in his speech to both houses at the opening of the session, expressed a fixed resolution to merit the love and affection of his people, by securing to them the full enjoyment of their religious and civil rights. He promised to lessen the public expence, as soon as the circumstances of affairs would admit. On the 7th of August, the parliament was dissolved, and writs issued for electing a new house of commons. Lord Torrington was placed at the head of the admiralty; the Earl of Westmoreland was appointed first lord commissioner of trade and plantations; and the Earl of Chesterfield was nominated ambassador to the Hague; the Duke of Devonshire was made president of the council, and the Duke of St. Alban’s master of the horse. The coronation of the king and queen
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was performed on the 11th of October, at Westminster Abbey, with the usual solemnities.

In the mean time Sir Charles Wager, with the fleet under his command in the Mediterranean, taking the opportunity of a cessation of arms before Gibraltar, sailed from that bay for Tangier, where coming to an anchor on the 7th of August, he obtained whatever he demanded of the dey, who entertained him and his principal officers ashore: Sir Charles weighing from thence on the 31st, at his return to Gibraltar-bay, not only found the Spaniards resolved to continue the siege of that fortress, till a courier was returned from London; but, contrary to the terms of a cessation of hostilities, were carrying plank and other materials for repairing the Theſſe battery. On the 13th of September, Sir Charles sent a letter by Lord Forbes to the Conde de Montemar, complaining of these transactions; to which the conde only replied, that he would get the admiral's letter translated, and then he would answer it.

Sir George Walton, rear-admiral of the red, having joined Sir Charles on the 9th of October, with four ships from England, was stationed by the admiral, with seven men of war, off Cape St. Vincent, to wait the arrival of some Spanish ships, expected from the West-Indies; while Sir Charles with ten more sailed for Gibraltar, where he anchored on November the 2d. And, having ordered convoy for the outward-bound Turkey men, then arrived in the channel of Malta, was joined by Sir George Walton on the 3d of December, without any success. And, on the 11th, the admiral received orders from the Duke of Newcastle, to keep a good look-out for the galleons, which were reported to be on their way home; and Admiral Hopson had instructions at the same time to sail to the West Indies, and take the command of the squadron there. Upon this Sir Charles ordered ten ships to cruise off Cape St. Vincent, eight off Cape Spartel, and seven off Cape Finisterre.

The parliament met on the 21st of January, 1728, when the king, in his speech, demanded such supplies as might enable him to act vigorously in concert with the allies, provided his endeavours to establish an advantageous peace should miscarry; the apprehension of which was greatly strengthened by the dilatory conduct of the courts of Vienna and Madrid. The house of commons having considered the estimates which were laid before them by order of his majesty, voted 22,955 men for guards and garrisons, and 15,000 seamen for the service of the ensuing year. They granted 230,923*l.* for the maintenance of twelve thousand Hessian troops; a subsidy of 50,000*l.* to the King of Sweden; and half that sum to the Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttel. The expence of the year amounted to four millions, raised by a land-tax of three shillings in the pound, a malt-tax, and by borrowing of the bank one million seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds, for which annuities, to the amount of seventy thousand pounds, to be raised by duties on coals imported into the city of London, were granted to that corporation.

England was at this period quite barren of remarkable events. The king's uncle, Ernest Augustus, Prince of Brunswick, Duke of York, and Bishop of Osnabruck, died on the third of August, and was succeeded in the bishopric by the Elector of Cologne, according to the pactum by which Osnabruck is alternately possessed by the house of Brunswick and that elector. In the beginning of December, his majesty's eldest son Prince Frederic arrived in England from Hanover, where he had hitherto resided, was introduced into the privy-council, and created Prince of Wales. Signior Como, resident from the Duke of Parma, was ordered to quit the kingdom, because his master paid to the pretender the honours due to the king of Great Britain. The congress opened at Soissons, for determining all disputes among the powers
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of Europe, proved ineffectual. Such difficulties occurred in settling and reconciling so many different pretensions and interests, that the contracting parties in the alliance of Hanover proposed a provisional treaty, concerning which no definitive answer was given as yet by the courts of Vienna and Madrid. The fate of Europe, therefore, continued in suspense: the English fleet lay inactive and rotting in the West-Indies; the sailors perished miserably, without daring to avenge their country's wrongs; while the Spanish cruizers committed depredations with impunity on the commerce of Great Britain. The court of Spain, at this juncture, seemed cold and indifferent with regard to a pacification with England. It had renewed a good understanding with France, and now strengthened its interest by a double alliance of marriage with the royal family of Portugal. The Infanta of this House was betrothed to the Prince of Asturias: while the Spanish Infanta, formerly affianced to the French King, was now matched with the Prince of Brazil, eldest son of his Portuguese majesty. In the month of January, the two courts met in a wooden house built over the little river Coia, that separates the two kingdoms, and there the princesses were exchanged.

The parliament of Great Britain meeting according to their last prorogation on the twenty-first of January, 1729, the king, in his speech, communicated the nature of the negotiation at the congress. He demanded such supplies as might enable him to act vigorously in concert with his allies, provided his endeavours to establish an advantageous peace should miscarry; and he hinted, that the dilatory conduct of the courts of Vienna and Madrid proceeded, in a great measure, from the hopes that were given, of creating discontents and divisions among the subjects of Great Britain. This suggestion was a ministerial artifice to inflame the zeal and resentment of the nation, and intimidate the members in the opposition. Accordingly
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the hint was pursued, and, in the addresses from both houses, that could not fail of being agreeable, considering the manner in which they were dictated, particular notice was taken of this article; both peers and commons expressed their detestation and abhorrence of those, who, by such base and unnatural artifices, suggested the means of distressing their country, and clamoured at the inconveniences which they themselves had occasioned. In these addresses, likewise, the parliament congratulated his majesty on the arrival of the Prince of Wales in his British dominions; and the commons sent a particular compliment to his royal highness on that occasion. The estimates having been examined in the usual form, the house voted fifteen thousand seamen at four pounds a-man per month, for thirteen months, for the current year, and also voted 206,025*l.* for the ordinary of the navy during the same time. On the 14th of March, the house of commons having previously examined accounts of the Spanish depredations, and called for several papers relating thereto, came to the following resolution, That ever since the peace of Utrecht, concluded in 1713, to this time, the British trade and navigation to and from the several colonies in America, had been greatly interrupted by the continual depredations of the Spaniards, who had seized very valuable effects, and unjustly taken and made prize of great numbers of British ships and vessels in those parts, to the great loss and damage of the subjects of this kingdom, and in manifest violation of the treaties subsisting between the two crowns. In consequence of which resolution, it was further unanimously resolved, that an humble address be presented to his majesty, to desire he would be graciously pleased to use his utmost endeavours to prevent such depredations; to procure just and reasonable satisfaction for the losses sustained; and to secure to his subjects the free exercise of commerce and navigation, to and from the British colonies in America. In

answer

answer to which, his majesty was graciously pleased to promise his best endeavours to procure their desires. In pursuance of several other papers called for, and farther resolutions taken thereupon, a second address followed much to the same purpose. The consequence of all which was, an order, on the 25th of May, for putting thirty-three ships, including guardships, in commission; to these was joined a Dutch squadron.

The king had, on the 24th of March, given the royal assent to five bills; and, on the 14th of May, the same sanction was given to thirty other bills, including an act, enabling the queen to be regent in the kingdom during his majesty's absence, without taking the oaths; and another for the relief of insolvent debtors. At the same time two and thirty private bills were passed: then the king expressed his approbation of the parliament, signified his intention to visit his German dominions, and ordered the chancellor to prorogue both houses. His majesty, having appointed the queen regent of the realm, set out for Hanover, on the 17th of May, in order to remove a petty misunderstanding which had happened between that electorate and the court of Berlin. Some Hanoverian subjects had been pressed or decoyed into the service of Prussia; and the regents of Hanover had seized certain Prussian officers by way of reprisal. The whole united kingdom of Great Britain as this juncture enjoyed uninterrupted repose; and commerce continued to increase, in spite of all restriction and discouragement. In this month, Charles lord Townshend resigned the seals, which were given to Colonel Stanhope, now created Earl of Harrington; so that Sir Robert Walpole now reigned without a rival. James earl of Waldegrave was appointed ambassador to the court of France, which, about that time, was filled with joy by the birth of a dauphin. In September, Victor Amadeus king of Sardinia resigned his crown to his son Charles Emanuel prince of Piedmont. The father reserved

to himself a revenue of one hundred thousand pistoles per annum, retired to the castle of Chamberry, and espoused the Countess dowager of St. Sebastian, who declined the title of queen, but assumed that of Marchioness of Somerive.

Though the congress at Soissons proved abortive, conferences were begun at Seville, between the plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Spain; and a treaty was concluded on the ninth of November, not only without the concurrence of the emperor, but even contrary to his right, as established by the quadruple alliance. On this subject he communicated an imperial commissorial decree to the states of the empire assembled in the diet at Ratisbon, which was answered by the French minister de Chauvigny. In October, Peter II. Czar of Muscovy, and grandson of Peter I. died in the fifteenth year of his age, at Moscow, and was succeeded on the Russian throne by the Princess Anne Ivanowna, second daughter of John Alexowitz, elder brother of the first Peter, and widow of Frederic William duke of Courland. The following month was rendered remarkable by the death of Pope Benedict XIII. in whose room Cardinal Laurence Corsini was raised to the pontificate, and assumed the name of Clement XII.

The British parliament assembling on the thirteenth of January, 1730, the king gave them to understand, that the peace of Europe was now established by the treaty of Seville, built upon the foundation of former treaties, and tending to render more effectual what the contracting powers in the quadruple alliance were before engaged to see performed. He assured them, that all former conventions made with Spain in favour of the British trade and navigation were renewed and confirmed: that the free uninterrupted exercise of their commerce was restored: that the court of Spain had agreed to an ample restitution and reparation for unlawful seizures and depredations: that all
rights,

rights, privileges, and possessions, belonging to him and his allies, were solemnly re-established, confirmed, and guaranteed; and that not one concession was made to the prejudice of his subjects. He told them he had given orders for reducing a great number of his land forces, and for laying up great part of the fleet; and observed that there would be a considerable saving in the expence of the current year. After both houses had presented their addresses of thanks and congratulation to the king on the peace of Seville, the lords took that treaty into consideration, and it did not pass enquiry without severe animadversion. The opposition excepted to the article by which the merchants of Great Britain were obliged to make proof of their losses at the court of Spain. They said this stipulation was a hardship upon British subjects, and dishonourable to the nation: that few would care to undertake such a troublesome and expensive journey, especially as they had reason to apprehend their claims would be counterbalanced by the Spaniards; and, after all, they would have no more than the slender comfort of hoping to obtain that redress by commissaries which they had not been able to procure by plenipotentiaries. They thought it very extraordinary, that Great Britain should be bound to ratify and guarantee whatever agreement should be made between the King of Spain and the Dukes of Parma and Tuscany, concerning the garrisons once established in their countries: that the English should be obliged to assist in effectuating the introduction of six thousand Spanish troops into the towns of Tuscany and Parma, without any specification of the methods to be taken, or the charge to be incurred, in giving that assistance: that they should guarantee for ever, not only to Don Carlos, but even to all his successors, the possession of the estates of Tuscany and Parma; a stipulation which in all probability would involve Great Britain in endless quarrels and disputes, about a country with which

they had no concern. They affirmed that the treaty of Seville, instead of confirming other treaties, was contradictory to the quadruple alliance; particularly in the article of introducing Spanish troops into Tuscany and Parma, in the room of neutral forces stipulated by the former alliance; and agreeing that they should there remain until Don Carlos and his successors should be secure and exempt from all events. They complained that these alterations, from the tenor of the quadruple alliance, were made without the concurrence of the emperor, and even without inviting him to accede; an affront which might alienate his friendship from England, and hazard the loss of such an ancient, powerful, and faithful, ally: they declared that throughout the whole treaty there seemed to be an artful omission of any express stipulation, to secure Great Britain in her right to Gibraltar and Minorca. Such was the substance of the objections made to the peace. The majority, far from stigmatising this transaction, resolved, that the treaty did contain all necessary stipulation for maintaining and securing the honour, dignity, rights, and possessions of the crown: that all due care was taken therein for the support of the trade of the kingdom, and for repairing the losses sustained by the British merchants. On these resolutions an address of approbation was founded.

The subsidies were continued to the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel and the Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbuttel, in spite of all that could be urged against these extraneous incumbrances; and the supply for the ensuing year was granted according to the estimates which the ministry thought proper to produce, amounting to about 2,280,000*l*. It must be owned, however, for the credit of this session, that the house appropriated one million of the surplusses arising from the sinking fund towards the discharge of the national debt; and by another act extinguished the duties upon salt, by which expedient the subject was eased of a heavy burthen,

then, not only in being freed from the duty, but also from a considerable charge of salaries given to a great number of officers employed to collect this imposition. They likewise encouraged the colony of Carolina with an act, allowing the planters and traders of that province to export rice directly to any part of Europe southward of Cape Finisterre; and they permitted salt from Europe to be imported into the colony of New York.

The term of the exclusive trade granted by act of parliament to the East-India company drawing towards a period, many considerable merchants and others made application for being incorporated and vested with the privilege of trading to those countries, proposing to lay that branch of trade open to all the subjects of Great Britain, on certain conditions. In consideration of an act of parliament for this purpose, they offered to advance 3,200,000*l.* for redeeming the fund and trade of the present East-India company. This proposal was rejected; and the exclusive privilege vested in the company was, by act of parliament, protracted to the year 1766, upon the following conditions: that they should pay into the Exchequer the sum of 200,000*l.* towards the supplies of the year, without interest or addition to their capital stock; that the annuity or yearly fund of 160,000*l.* payable to them from the public, should be reduced to 128,000*l.* that, after the year 1766, their right to the exclusive trade should be liable to be taken away by parliament, on three years notice, and repayment of their capital. Yet the company were then permitted to continue as a corporation for ever, to enjoy the East-India trade in common with all other subjects. Farther, the company at any time, on one year's notice, after Lady-day, 1736, might be paid off their whole capital, by any payments not less than 500,000*l.* at a time; and so on from time to time, on such yearly notices by parliament. The company were, by this act,

act, debarred from possessing in Great Britain lands or tenements exceeding 10,000*l.* yearly rent.

About this time advice was received from Charlestown, in South Carolina, that one of the Spanisli guarda costas meeting with the Dursley galley man of war, and taking her for a merchant ship, bore down and poured a broadside into her, but was taken, after having five or six men killed, and about twenty wounded, without the loss of one man in the Dursley. However, as an instance of our dealing more favourably with the Spaniards than they had done with us, she was soon after released; as was also a Spanish advice-boat, which had been taken and carried into Jamaica.

The confederate fleet of the English and Dutch at Spithead raised expectations in the public, who now imagined that some bold stroke was intended in favour of our merchants. But, after spending about three months in a pompous parade, the Dutch sailed homewards; and, on the 16th of October, twelve of our largest ships were ordered to be laid up, viz. the Cornwall, Nassau, Grafton, Burford, and Sunderland, at Chatham; and the Princess Amelia, Berwick, Monmouth, Kent, Royal Oak, Kingston, and Falkland, at Portsmouth. This fleet, however, it is generally thought, accelerated the signing of the convention, and also the dispatching those orders which were carried to Cuba, by the new governor of that island, by virtue of which he imprisoned his predecessor, and even laid him in irons, at the same time declaring, that his instructions were to live in amity with the English. But all this, as appeared by the consequences, proved no more than grimace; for the guarda costas continued their former depredations.

This year was not distinguished by any transaction of great moment.—Seven chiefs of the Cherokee nations of Indians in America were brought to England by Sir Alexander Cumin. Being introduced to the king, they laid their crown and regalia at his feet; and by

by an authentic deed acknowledged themselves subject to his dominion, in the name of all their compatriots, who had vested them with full power for this purpose. They were amazed and confounded at the riches and magnificence of the British court: they compared the king and queen to the sun and moon, the princes to the stars of heaven, and themselves to nothing. They gave their assent in the most solemn manner to articles of friendship and commerce, proposed by the lords commissioners for trade and plantations; and, being loaded with presents of necessaries, arms, and ammunition, were re-conveyed to their own country, which borders on the province of South Carolina.—In the month of September a surprising revolution was effected at Constantinople, without bloodshed or confusion. A few mean janissaries displayed a flag in the streets, exclaiming that all true Musselmens ought to follow them, and assist in reforming the government. They soon increased to the number of 100,000, marched to the seraglio, and demanded the grand vizar, the kiaja, and capitan pacha. These unhappy ministers were immediately strangled. Their bodies, being immediately delivered to the insurgents, were dragged through the streets; and afterwards thrown to the dogs to be devoured. Not contented with this sacrifice, the revolvers deposed the grand signor Achmet, who was confined to the same prison from whence they brought his nephew, Macmut, and raised this last to the throne, after he had lived seven-and-twenty years in confinement.

In the speech with which the king opened the parliament on the 21st of January, 1731, he told them, that the present critical conjuncture seemed in a very particular manner to deserve their attention: that, as the transactions then depending in the several courts of Europe were upon the point of being determined, the great event of peace or war might be very much affected by their first resolutions, which were
expected

expected by different powers with great impatience. He said, the continuance of that zeal and vigour with which they had hitherto supported him and his engagements must, at this time, be of the greatest weight and importance, both with regard to his allies, and to those who might be disposed, before the season of action, to prevent, by an accommodation, the fatal consequences of a general rupture. When the supply fell under consideration, the debates were renewed upon the subsidies to the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel and the Duke of Wolfenbittel, which, however, were continued: and every article was granted according to the estimates given in for the expence of the ensuing year. A great number of merchants from different parts of the kingdom having repeated their complaints of depredations and cruelties committed by the Spaniards in the West-Indies, their petitions were referred to the consideration of a grand committee. Their complaints, upon examination, appeared to be well founded. The house presented an address to the king, desiring his majesty would be graciously pleased to continue his endeavours to prevent such depredations for the future; to procure full satisfaction for the damages already sustained; and, to secure to the British subjects the full and uninterrupted exercise of their trade and navigation to and from the British colonies in America.

The house of peers proceeded to consider the state of the national debt: they read a bill for the free importation of wool from Ireland into England, which was fiercely opposed, and laid aside, contrary to all the rules of sound policy. A fruitless motion was made by Lord Bathurst for an address, to desire his majesty would give directions for discharging the Hessian troops that were in the pay of Great Britain. —On the 7th of May the parliament was prorogued, after the king had given them to understand, that all apprehensions of war were now happily removed, by
a treaty

a treaty signed at Vienna between him and the emperor. He said it was communicated to the courts of France and Spain, as parties to the treaty of Seville, the execution of which it principally regarded; and that it was likewise submitted to the consideration of the States-General. He observed, that the conditions and engagements into which he had entered, on this occasion, were agreeable to that necessary concern which the British nation must always have for the security and preservation of the balance of power in Europe: and, that this happy turn, duly improved, with a just regard to former alliances, yielded a favourable prospect of seeing the public tranquillity re-established.

In the month of January the Duke of Parma died, after having made a will in which he declared his duchess was three months advanced in her pregnancy; entreating the allied powers of Europe to have compassion upon his people, and defer the execution of their projects until his consort should be delivered. In case the child should be still born, or die after the birth, he bequeathed his dominions and allodial estates to the infant Don Carlos of Spain; and appointed five regents to govern the duchy. Notwithstanding this disposition, a body of imperial troops immediately took possession of Parma and Placentia, under the command of General Stampa, who declared they should conduct themselves with all possible regularity and moderation, and leave the administration entirely to the regents whom the duke had appointed. They publicly proclaimed in the market-place, that they took possession of these duchies for the infant Don Carlos: and that, if the duchess dowager should not be delivered of a prince, the said infant might receive the investiture from the emperor whenever he would, provided he should come without an army. Though these steps seemed to threaten an immediate war, the King of Great Britain and the States-General

interposed their mediation so effectually with the court of Vienna, that the emperor desisted from the prosecution of his design; and, on the 16th of March, concluded at Vienna a treaty with his Britannic majesty, by which he consented to withdraw his troops from Parma and Placentia. He agreed, that the King of Spain might take possession of these places in favour of his son Don Carlos, according to the treaty of Seville. He likewise agreed, that the Ostend company, which had given such umbrage to the maritime powers, should be totally dissolved, on condition that the contracting powers concerned in the treaty of Seville should guarantee the pragmatic sanction, or succession of the Austrian hereditary dominions to the heirs female of the emperor, in case he should die without male issue. The Dutch minister residing at the Imperial court did not subscribe this treaty, because, by the maxims received in that republic, and the nature of her government, he could not be vested with full powers so soon as it would have been necessary: nevertheless, the States-General were, by a separate article, expressly named as a principal contracting party.

On the 22d of July a new treaty was signed at Vienna between the Emperor and the Kings of Great Britain and Spain, tending to confirm the former. In August a treaty of union and defensive alliance between the electorates of Saxony and Hanover, was executed at Dresden.—The court of Spain expressing some doubts with regard to the pregnancy of the Duchess of Parma, she underwent a formal examination by five midwives of different nations, in presence of the older duchess dowager, several ladies of quality, three physicians, and a surgeon; and was declared with child: nevertheless, after having kept all Europe in suspense for six months, she owned she had been deceived; and General Stampa, with the imperial forces, took formal possession of the duchies of Parma and Placentia. Spain and the Great Duke of Tuscany

cany having acceded to the last treaty of Vienna, the crown of Great Britain engaged to equip an armament that should convoy Don Carlos to his new dominions. Accordingly, Sir Charles Wager sailed with a strong squadron from Portsmouth on the 14th of July; having been appointed admiral of the blue, he hoisted his flag on-board the *Namur*. On the 1st of August he arrived in the bay of Cadiz; and, setting out by land from Port St. Mary, he reached Seville on the 6th, where he had an audience of their catholic majesties, and was very graciously received. The King of Spain, on this occasion, presented the admiral with his picture, set in diamonds, worth five thousand pounds. He was accompanied to this audience by Mr. Keene, the British envoy, and attended by several gentlemen who came with him from on-board the squadron, and by all the British merchants who resided at Seville. On the 16th he sailed from Cadiz, and the next day arrived at Gibraltar; here he continued five days, and took some troops on-board; from whence he proceeded to Barcelona, where he arrived on the 2d of September. Here he was joined by a Spanish fleet and transports, the whole of which sailed together to Leghorn. On the 26th of October, Sir Charles set sail on his return to England with the whole British fleet; and, the imperial general having withdrawn his forces into the Milanese, the infant took quiet possession of his new territories.

Notwithstanding this apparent amity between the courts of London and Madrid, advices from the West-Indies were full of accounts of the insults and cruelties committed by the Spaniards on the English in those parts. The treatment of Robert Jenkins, master of the *Rebecca*, whose ear they cut off, was attended with circumstances, highly aggravating. After they had thus maimed him, they gave him back his ear, telling him to carry that present home to his master, the King of Great Britain.

In November this same year, four twenty-gun ships, and two small sloops, were put into commission, and ordered to be sheathed for the West-India service; and, in January following, were added two more twenty-gun ships, in order to cruise against the guarda costas, who still continued their depredations. Upon receiving intelligence of these preparations in England, the Spanish ministry pretended to put a stop to those hostilities, by transmitting a schedule from their king, by the hands of Mr. Keene, the British minister at Madrid to London, in order to be dispatched to Rear-admiral Stewart, who was to communicate the same to the Spanish governors. But, as this schedule excepted from any benefit of it, all who carried on an illicit trade, and did not determine what was comprehended under the term illicit, this vague order produced no good effect; but the Spanish piracies under the king's commission rather increased.

The next object of importance that attracted the notice of the house was the state of the Charitable Corporation. This company was first erected in the year 1707. Their professed intention was to lend money at legal interest to the poor, upon small pledges; and to persons of better rank upon an indubitable security of goods impawned. Their capital was at first limited to thirty thousand pounds; but, by licences from the crown, they increased it to six hundred thousand pounds, though their charter was never confirmed by act of parliament. In the month of October, George Robinson, Esq. member for Marlow, the cashier, and John Thompson, warehouse-keeper of the corporation, disappeared in one day. The proprietors, alarmed at this incident, held several general courts, and appointed a committee to inspect the state of their affairs. They reported, that for a capital of above five hundred thousand pounds, no equivalent was found; inasmuch as their effects did not amount to the value of thirty thousand, the re-
mainder

mainder having been embezzled by means which they could not discover. The proprietors, in a petition to the house of commons, represented that by the most notorious breach of trust in several persons to whom the care and management of their affairs were committed, the corporation had been defrauded of the greatest part of their capital; and that many of the petitioners were reduced to the utmost degree of misery and distress; they, therefore, prayed, that as they were unable to detect the combinations of those who had ruined them, or to bring the delinquents to justice, without the aid of the power and authority of parliament, the house would vouchsafe to enquire into the state of the corporation, and the conduct of their managers; and give such relief to the petitioners as to the house should seem meet. The petition was graciously received, and a secret committee appointed to proceed on the enquiry. They soon discovered a most iniquitous scene of fraud, which had been acted by Robinson and Thompson, in concert with some of the directors, for embezzling the capital, and cheating the proprietors. Many persons of rank and quality were concerned in this infamous conspiracy: some of the first characters in the nation did not escape suspicion and censure. No less than six members of parliament were expelled for the most sordid acts of knavery. Sir Robert Sutton, Sir Archibald Grant, and George Robinson, for their frauds in the management of the charitable corporation scheme; Dennis Bond, and Serjeant Burch, for a fraudulent sale of the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater's estate; and, lastly, John Ward, of Hackney, for forgery. It was at this time asserted in the house of lords, that not one shilling of the forfeited estates was ever applied to the services of the public: a bill was prepared to make the sale void. In the mean time, the committee received a letter from Signor John Angelo Belloni, an eminent banker at Rome,

Rome, giving them to understand, that Thompson was secured in that city, with all his papers, and confined to the castle of St. Angelo; and that the papers were transmitted to his correspondent at Paris, who would deliver them up, on certain conditions stipulated in favour of the prisoner. This letter was considered as an artifice to insinuate a favourable opinion of the pretender, as if he had taken measures for securing Thompson, from his zeal for justice, and affection for the English people. On this supposition, the proposals were rejected with disdain; and both houses concurred in an order that the letter should be burned at the Royal Exchange, by the hands of the common hangman. The lower house resolved, that it was an insolent and audacious libel, absurd and contradictory; that the whole transaction was a scandalous artifice, calculated to delude the unhappy, and to disguise and conceal the wicked practices of the professed enemies to his majesty's person, crown, and dignity. The sufferers were relieved by a lottery in the ensuing session.

No motion, during this session, produced such a warm contest as did that of Sir Robert Walpole, when he proposed that the duties on salt, which about two years before had been abolished, should now be revived, and granted to his majesty, his heirs, and successors, for the term of three years. In order to sweeten this proposal, he declared that the land-tax for the ensuing year should be reduced to one shilling in the pound. The members of the country party expressed their surprise at this proposal. They observed, that two years had scarcely elapsed since the king, in a speech from the throne, had exhorted them to abolish some of the taxes that were the most burthen some to the poor: and that no good reason could be produced for altering their opinion so suddenly, and resolving to grind the faces of the poor, in order to ease a few rich men of the landed interest. They affirmed,

affirmed, that the land-tax was raised at a very small expence, and subject to no fraud, whereas that upon salt would employ a great number of additional officers in the revenue, wholly depending upon the ministry, whose influence in elections they would proportionably increase. They even hinted, that this consideration was one powerful motive for proposing the revival of an odious tax, which was in effect an excise, and would be deemed a step towards a general excise upon all sorts of provisions. Sir Robert Walpole endeavoured to obviate these objections in a long speech, which was minutely answered by Mr. Pulteney. Nevertheless, the question being put, the minister's motion was carried in the affirmative, and the duty revived: yet, before the bill passed, divers motions were made, and additional clauses proposed, by the members in the opposition. New debates were raised on every new objection, and the courtiers were obliged to dispute their ground by inches.

The year 1732 was entirely barren of hostile events; towards the close of it his majesty granted a commission to the lords of the admiralty, to erect a corporation for the relief of poor widows of sea-officers; to consist of the lords of the admiralty, and the commissioners of the navy and victualling for the time being, and a certain number of the eldest captains and lieutenants in the navy. The terms of admission for partaking of the benefits of this institution were, that each member, who must be an officer in the navy, allow three-pence in the pound per annum out of his pay. Hereby an admiral's widow became entitled to fifty pounds a-year for life; a captain's, forty; a lieutenant's, thirty; other officers' widows, twenty pounds each. The chest at Chatham to be taken into this corporation, and the money raised to be put out to interest. A few months after this fund was established, Lieutenant George Crowe resigned his half-pay, amounting to 45*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per annum, to the

the lords of the admiralty for the use of this corporation, he having a competency to live on. An instance of generosity that well deserves to be recorded!

When the house of commons met, Sir Wilfred Lawson having made a motion for an address to the king, to know what satisfaction had been made by Spain for the depredations committed on the British merchants, it was, after a violent debate, approved, and the address presented. The king, in answer, informed the house, that the meeting of the commissaries of the two crowns had been so long delayed by unforeseen accidents, that the conferences were not opened till the latter end of the preceding February, and that as the courts of London and Madrid had agreed, that the term of three years stipulated for finishing the commission should be computed from their first meeting, a perfect account of their proceedings could not as yet be laid before them. The parliament having granted every branch of the supply, towards the payment of which they borrowed a sum from the sinking fund, and passed divers other acts for the encouragement of commerce and agriculture, the king, on the first of June, gave his assent to the bills that were prepared, and closed the session, after having informed both houses that the States-General had acceded to the treaty of Vienna: that he had determined to visit his German dominions, and to leave the queen regent in his absence. He accordingly set out for Hanover in the beginning of June.

By this time the pragmatic sanction was confirmed by the diet of the empire, though not without a formal protest by the Electors Palatine, Bavaria, and Saxony. Victor Amadæus, the abdicated King of Sardinia, having, at the instigation of his wife, engaged in some intrigues, in order to re-ascend the throne, his son, the reigning king ordered his person to be seized at Montcalier, and conveyed to Rivoli under a strong escort. His wife, the Marchioness de
Spigno,

Spigno, was conducted to Seva. The old king's confessor, his physician, and eight-and-forty persons of distinction, were imprisoned. The citadel of Turin was secured with a strong garrison; and new instructions were given to the governor and senate of Chamberri. The dispute which had long subsisted between the King of Prussia and the young Prince of Orange, touching the succession to the estates possessed by King William III. as head of the house of Orange, was at last accommodated by a formal treaty signed at Berlin and Dieren.—The Dutch were greatly alarmed about this time with an apprehension of being overwhelmed by an inundation, occasioned by worms, which were said to have consumed the piles and timber-work that supported their dykes. They prayed and fasted with uncommon zeal, in terror of this calamity, which they did not know how to avert in any other manner. At length they were delivered from their fears by a hard frost, which effectually destroyed those dangerous animals.—About this time, Mr. Dieden, plenipotentiary from the Elector of Hanover, received, in the name of his master, the investiture of Bremen and Verden from the hands of the emperor.

The session of parliament which began on the 16th of January, 1733, was distinguished by an important affair, which threw not only the house of commons, but the whole nation, into a flame. This was the excise bill, which Sir Robert Walpole introduced into the house, by first declaiming against the frauds practised by the factors of London, who were employed by the American planters, in selling their tobacco. To prevent these frauds, he proposed to join the laws of excise to those of the customs, that the farther sum of three farthings per pound, charged upon imported tobacco, should be still levied at the custom-house, and that it should be then lodged in warehouses appointed by the commissioners of excise. That the keeper of each warehouse should have one lock and

key, and the merchant-importer another; and that the tobacco should be thus secured. till the merchant should find vend for it, either by exportation or home-consumption: the part assigned for exportation should be weighed at the custom-house, discharged of the three farthings per pound, which had been paid at its first importation, and then exported, without farther trouble: that what was destined for home-consumption should, in the presence of the warehouse-keeper, be delivered to the purchaser, upon his paying the inland duty of four-pence per pound; by which means the merchant would be eased of the inconvenience of paying the duty upon importation, or of granting bonds, and finding sureties for the payment, before he had found a market for his commodity: that all penalties and forfeitures, so far as they formerly belonged to the crown, should, for the future, be applied to the use of the public: that appeals in this, as well as in all other cases relating to the excise, should be heard and determined by two or three of the judges, to be nominated by his majesty; and, in the country. by the judge of assize, upon the next circuit, who should hear and determine such appeals in the most summary manner, without the formality of proceedings in courts of law or equity. This was the substance of the famous excise scheme, in favour of which Sir Robert Walpole moved, that the duties and subsidies on tobacco should, from and after the 24th of January, cease and determine. The debate which ensued was maintained by all the able speakers on both sides of the question. Sir Robert Walpole was answered by Mr. Perry, member for the city of London. Sir Paul Methuen joined in the opposition. Sir John Barnard, another representative of London, distinguished himself in the same cause. He was supported by Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, and others. Those who opposed the scheme asserted, that it would involve the factors in
such

such hardships, that they would not be able to continue the trade: that it would be dangerous to the liberties of the subject, as it tended to promote a general excise: that it would produce an additional swarm of excise officers and warehouse-keepers, appointed and paid by the treasury; and, by multiplying the dependents of the crown, enable it still farther to influence the freedom of elections; and that traders would become slaves to excisemen and warehouse-keepers. After a long and warm debate, the motion was carried by a majority of sixty-one voices; and a bill was ordered to be brought in accordingly. This was done on the 4th of April, when it was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second on the 11th; but the alarm was now spread to the most distant parts of the nation; the cry was, "Liberty and property, and no excise!" and, on the 10th of April, the sheriffs, aldermen, and commons, of London, in a procession of two hundred coaches, attended by great crowds on foot, went to Westminster-hall with a petition, humbly praying to be heard by council against the bill: but this was carried in the negative by so small a majority as seventeen. The next day petitions came from Coventry and Nottingham against the bill, which were ordered to lie upon the table. Meanwhile the populace blocked up all the avenues to the house of commons, insulted those members who had voted for the ministry on this occasion; and Sir Robert began to be in fear of his life. He therefore thought proper to drop the design, by moving, that the second reading of the bill should be postponed till the 12th of June. The miscarriage of this bill occasioned the greatest joy and satisfaction, and was celebrated with public rejoicings in London, Westminster, and some of the principal towns in the kingdom; and, in the capital, Sir Robert was burned in effigy.

The king, by a message to parliament, had signified

his intention to give the princess royal in marriage to the Prince of Orange, promising himself their concurrence and assistance, that he might be enabled to bestow such a portion with his eldest daughter as should be suitable to the occasion. The commons immediately resolved, that, out of the monies arising from the sale of lands in the island of St. Christopher's, his majesty should be empowered to apply fourscore thousand pounds as a marriage dowry with his daughter; and a clause for this purpose was inserted in the bill, for enabling his majesty to apply five hundred thousand pounds out of the sinking-fund for the service of the current year.

Europe was now re-involved in fresh troubles, by a vacancy on the throne of Poland. Augustus died at Warsaw in the end of January, and the neighbouring powers were immediately in commotion. The Elector of Saxony, son to the late king, and Stanislaus, whose daughter was married to the French monarch, declared themselves candidates for the Polish throne. The emperor, the czarina, and the King of Prussia, espoused the interests of the Saxon: the King of France supported the pretensions of his father-in-law. The foreign ministers at Warsaw forthwith began to form intrigues among the electors: the Marquis de Monti, ambassador from France, exerted himself so successfully, that he soon gained over the primate; and a majority of the Catholic dietines, to the interests of Stanislaus; while the Imperial and Russian troops hovered on the frontiers of Poland. The French king no sooner understood that a body of the emperor's forces was encamped at Silesia, than he ordered the Duke of Berwick to assemble an army on the Rhine, and take measures for entering Germany, in case the imperialists should march into Poland. A French fleet set sail for Dantzick, while Stanislaus travelled through Germany in disguise to Poland, and concealed himself in the house of the French ambassador

fador at Warsaw. As the day of election approached, the Imperial, Russian, and Prussian, ministers delivered in their several declarations, by way of protest against the contingent election of Stanislaus, as a person proscribed, disqualified, depending upon a foreign power, and connected with the Turks and other infidels. The Russian General Laszi entered Poland at the head of fifty thousand men: the diet of the election was opened with the usual ceremony on the 25th of August. Prince Viesazowski, chief of the Saxon interest, retired to the other side of the Vistula, with three thousand men, including some of the nobility who adhered to that party. Nevertheless, the primate proceeded to the election: Stanislaus was unanimously chosen king; and appeared in the electoral field, where he was received with loud acclamation. The opposite party soon increased to ten thousand men; protested against the election, and joined the Russian army, which advanced by speedy marches. King Stanislaus, finding himself unable to cope with such adversaries, retired with the primate and French ambassador to Dantzick, leaving the Palatine of Kiow at Warsaw. This general attacked the Saxon palace, which was surrendered upon terms: then the soldiers and inhabitants plundered the houses belonging to the grandees who had declared for Augustus, as well as the hotel of the Russian minister. In the mean time, the Poles who had joined the Muscovites, finding it impracticable to pass the Vistula before the expiration of the time fixed for the session of the diet, erected a kolo at Cracow, where the Elector of Saxony was chosen and proclaimed, by the Bishop of Cracow, King of Poland, under the name of Augustus III. on the 6th of October. They afterwards passed the river, and the Palatine of Kiow retiring towards Cracow, they took possession of Warsaw, where in their turn they plundered the palaces and houses belonging to the opposite party.

During

During these transactions, the French king concluded a treaty with Spain and Sardinia, by which those powers agreed to declare war against the emperor. Manifestos were published reciprocally by all the contracting powers. The Duke of Berwick passed the Rhine in October, and undertook the siege of fort Kehl, which, in a few days, was surrendered on capitulation: then he repassed the river, and returned to Versailles. The King of Sardinia, having declared war against the emperor, joined a body of French forces commanded by Marechal de Villars, and drove the imperialists out of the Milanese. His imperial majesty, dreading the effects of such a powerful confederacy against him, offered to compromise all differences with the crown of Spain under the mediation of the King of Great Britain; and Mr. Keene, the British minister at Madrid, proposed an accommodation. Philip expressed his acknowledgements to the King of England, declaring, however, that the emperor's advances were too late; and that his own resolutions were already taken. Nevertheless, he sent orders to the Count de Montijo, his ambassador at London, to communicate to his Britannic majesty the motives which had induced him to take these resolutions. In the mean time he detached a powerful armament to Italy, where they invested the imperial fortrefs of Aula, the garrison of which was obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war. The republic of Venice declared she would take no share in the disputes of Italy: the States General signed a neutrality with the French king for the Austrian Netherlands, without consulting the emperor or the King of Great Britain; and the English councils seemed to be altogether pacific.

About this time the Deal-castle man of war, Captain Aubin, took a Spanish merchantman near Campeachy, by way of reprisals, and carried her into South Carolina. On the other hand, in October, a Sallee

Sallee cruizer, of eighteen guns, and one hundred and forty men, took and carried into that port an English ship of 180 tons and ten guns, called the *Eagle*, John Chilly, commander, richly laden with cloth, fine linen, and spices, having on-board sixty-six Portuguese passengers, besides fourteen English. Upon intelligence of this capture, the English consul at Tetuan set out immediately for Mequinez to solicit her release; but, with so little success, that a Jewish rabbi well skilled in the language, whom he took with him as his interpreter, labouring hard with the emperor to obtain it, was ordered to be burnt alive, and the consul obliged to return without receiving any satisfaction.

The mal-treatment of the consul at Sallee, and detention of the ship above mentioned, produced an order for three English frigates, of twenty guns each, to sail to Barbary and demand her release and farther satisfaction; but it was a considerable time before a stop could be put to their piracies, as will appear in the sequel. In nine days after their weighing from Portsmouth, they arrived at Tetuan, viz. on the 12th of March, when the bashaw sent a messenger to Mequinez, to endeavour the procuring satisfaction; but the great obstacle was the number of Portuguese found on-board, who being made slaves, the emperor would by no means hear of releasing them. Upon this, these frigates took their station off that port, and, with some Dutch men of war, blocked it up, so that none of their rovers dared venture out to sea. But notwithstanding this precaution, a row-boat from Tetuan found means to get out of the harbour, and take the *John of London*, William Matthews, master, loaded with pipe-staves, &c. from Amsterdam for Malaga. Besides this, they took ten other vessels during this and the following year, which they carried into their ports, and made the unfortunate companies of them slaves in Barbary.

It will be proper here to speak of the bravery of Captain David Fullerton, commander of an English merchantman, who, in his passage from the streights, being met by a Saltee rover was obliged to bring to. The Saltee man sent his boat on-board with twenty men, in order to seize the prize. But Captain Fullerton, observing the number, bravely resolved, with his fourteen men, to attack and make himself master of them, as soon as they came on-board. This they executed with undaunted courage; and the Moors, judging by their resolution that they had a greater number of hands on-board, threw down their arms and surrendered. Upon this, Captain Fullerton crowded all his sail, got clear of the rover, and brought his prisoners to Middleburg, in Zealand.

Although Great Britain took no active part in the disputes on the continent, yet it was thought proper to make great additions to the naval strength of the kingdom: accordingly, early in the year 1734, eighty-six men of war from one hundred guns down to twenty were put into commission. When the commons deliberated upon the supply, Mr. Andrews, deputy-paymaster of the army, moved for an addition of eighteen hundred men to the number of land-forces which had been continued since the preceding year. The members in the opposition disputed this small augmentation with too much heat and eagerness. They could not, however, prevent the augmentation proposed: but they resolved, if they could not wholly stop the career of the ministry, to throw in such a number of rubs as should, at least, retard their progress. The Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham had been deprived of the regiments they commanded, because they refused to concur in every project of the administration. It was in consequence of their dismissal, that Lord Morpeth moved for a bill to prevent any commission officer, not above the rank of a colonel, from being removed, unless by a court-martial, or by
address

addresses of either house of parliament. Such an attack on the prerogative might have succeeded in the latter part of the reign of the first Charles; but at this juncture could not fail to miscarry: yet it was sustained with great vigour and address. When the proposal was set aside by the majority, Mr. Sandys moved for an address to the king, desiring to know who advised his majesty to remove the Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham from their respective regiments. He was seconded by Mr. Pulteney and Sir William Wyndham: but the ministry, foreseeing another tedious dispute, called for the question, and the motion was carried in the negative. The duty upon salt was prolonged for eight years; and a bill passed against stock-jobbing.

But the subject which of all others employed the eloquence and abilities on both sides to the most vigorous exertion, was a motion made by Mr. Bromley, who proposed that a bill should be brought in for repealing the septennial act, and for the more frequent meeting and calling of parliaments. The arguments for and against septennial parliaments have been frequently repeated. The ministry now insisted upon the increase of papists and jacobites, which rendered it dangerous to weaken the hands of government: they challenged the opposition to produce one instance in which the least encroachment had been made on the liberties of the people since the septennial act took place. Sir John Hinde Cotton affirmed, that the septennial law itself was an encroachment on the rights of the people: a law passed by a parliament that made itself septennial. He observed, that the laws of treason with regard to trials were altered since that period: that in former times a man was tried by a jury of his neighbours, within the county where the crimes alleged against him were said to be committed; but by an act of a septennial parliament he might be removed and tried in any place where the crown, or rather the ministry, could find a jury proper for their
 VOL. V. No. 107. R purpose;

purpose; where the prisoner could not bring any witness in his justification, without an expence which perhaps his circumstances would not bear. He asked, if the riot act was not an encroachment on the rights of the people? An act by which a little dirty justice of the peace, the meanest and vilest tool a minister can use, who perhaps subsists by his being in the commission, and may be deprived of that subsistence at the pleasure of his patron, had it in his power to put twenty or thirty of the best subjects in England to immediate death, without any trial or form but that of reading a proclamation. "Was not the fatal South-Sea scheme (said he) established by the act of a septennial parliament? And can any man ask, whether that law was attended with any inconvenience? To the glorious catalogue I might have added the late excise bill, if it had passed into a law; but, thank heaven, the septennial parliament was near expiring before that famous measure was introduced." Notwithstanding the most warm, the most nervous, the most pathetic, remonstrances in favour of the motion, the question was put, and it was suppressed by mere dint of number.

The triumph of the ministry was still more complete in the success of a message delivered from the crown in the latter end of the session, when a great many members of the other party had retired to their respective habitations in the country. Sir Robert Walpole delivered this commission to the house, importing, that his majesty might be enabled to augment his forces, if occasion should require such an augmentation, between the dissolution of this parliament and the election of another. Such an important point, that was said to strike at the foundation of our liberties, was not tamely yielded; but, on the contrary, contested with uncommon ardour. The motion for taking the message into consideration was carried in the affirmative; and an address presented to

to the king, signifying their compliance with his desire. In consequence of a subsequent message, they prepared and passed a bill, enabling his majesty to settle an annuity of five thousand pounds for life on the princess royal, as a mark of his paternal favour and affection.

The business of the session being dispatched, the king repaired to the house of lords on the 16th of April, and, having passed all the bills that were ready for the royal assent, took leave of this parliament, with the warmest acknowledgement of their zeal, duty, and affection. It was at first prorogued, then dissolved, and another convoked by the same proclamation. On the 14th of March, the nuptials of the Prince of Orange and the Princess Royal were solemnized with great magnificence : and this match was attended with addresses of congratulation to his majesty from different parts of the kingdom.

The powers at war upon the continent acted with surprising vigour. The Russian and Saxon army invested the city of Dantzick, in hopes of securing the person of King Stanislaus. The town was strong, the garrison numerous, and, animated by the examples of the French and Poles, made a very obstinate defence. For some time they were supplied by sea with recruits, arms, and ammunition. On the 11th of May a reinforcement of fifteen hundred men was landed from two French ships of war and some transports, under Fort Wechsfelmunde, which was so much in want of provisions, that they were not admitted : they therefore re-embarked, and sailed back to Copenhagen. But afterwards a large number were landed in the same place, and attacked the Russian entrenchments, in order to force their way into the city. They were repulsed in this attempt, but retired in good order. At length the Russian fleet arrived, under the command of Admiral Gordon ; and now the siege was carried on with great fury. Fort

Weschfelmunde was surrendered: the French troops capitulated, and were embarked in the Russian ships, to be conveyed to some port in the Baltic. Stanislaus escaped in the disguise of a peasant to Marienwarder, in the Prussian territories. The city of Dantzick submitted to the dominion of Augustus III. King of Poland, and was obliged to defray the expence of the war to the Russian general, Count de Munich, who had assumed the command after the siege was begun. The Polish lords at Dantzick signed an act of submission to King Augustus, who on the 10th of July arrived at the convent of Oliva. There a council was held in his presence. The recusant noblemen took the oath which he proposed. Then a general amnesty was proclaimed; and the king set out on his return to Dresden.

On the Rhine the French arms bore down all resistance. Count Belleisle besieged and took Traerbach. The Duke of Berwick, at the head of sixty thousand men, invested Philipsburgh, while Prince Eugene was obliged to remain on the defensive, in the strong camp at Heilbron, waiting for the troops of the empire. On the 12th of June, the Duke of Berwick, in visiting the trenches, was killed by a cannon-ball, and the command devolved upon the Marquis d'Asfeldt, who carried on the operations of the siege with equal vigour and capacity. Prince Eugene, being joined by the different reinforcements he expected, marched towards the French lines: but found them so strong that he could not hazard an attack; and such precautions were taken, that with all his military talents he could not relieve the besieged. At length General Wathenau, the governor, capitulated, after having made a noble defence, and obtained the most honourable conditions. Prince Eugene retired to Heidelberg; and the campaign ended about the beginning of October.

The imperial arms were not more successful in Italy.

Italy. The infant Don Carlos had received so many invitations from the Neapolitan nobility, that he resolved to take possession of that kingdom. He began his march in February, at the head of the Spanish forces; published a manifesto, declaring he was sent by his father to relieve the kingdom of Naples from the oppression under which it groaned; and entered the capital amidst the acclamations of the people; while the Count de Visconti, the German viceroy, finding himself unable to cope with the invaders, thought proper to retire, after having thrown succours into Gaeta and Capua. When he arrived at Nocera, he began to assemble the militia, with intent to form a camp at Bartetta. The Count de Montemar marched with a body of forces against this general, and obtained over him a complete victory at Bitonto in Apuglia, on the 25th of May, when the Imperialists were entirely routed, and a great number of principal officers taken prisoners. Don Carlos being proclaimed, and acknowledged King of Naples, created the Count de Montemar Duke of Bitonto; reduced Gaeta, and all other parts of the kingdom which were garrisoned with imperial troops; and resolved to subdue the island of Sicily. About twenty thousand troops being destined for the expedition were landed in the road of Solanto in August, under the command of the new Duke of Bitonto, who, being favoured by the natives, proceeded in his conquests with great rapidity. The people acknowledged Don Carlos as their sovereign, and took arms in support of his government; so that the imperial troops were driven before them, and the Spaniards possessed the whole kingdom, except Messina, Syracuse, and Trepani, when the infant determined to visit the island in person.

While Don Carlos was thus employed in the conquest of Naples and Sicily, the Imperialists were hard pressed in Lombardy by the united forces of France and Piedmont, commanded by the King of Sardinia
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and the old Marshal Villars. In the month of January they undertook the siege of Tortona, which they reduced; while the troops of the emperor began to pour in great numbers into the Mantuan. In the beginning of May, Count Merci, who commanded them, passed the Po in the face of the allies, notwithstanding all the skill of Villars, obliged him to retreat from the banks of that river, and took the castle of Colorno. The old French general, being taken ill, quitted the army, and retired to Turin, where in a little time he died; and the King of Sardinia retiring to the same place, the command of the allied forces devolved upon Marshal Coigny. The confederates were posted at Sanguina, and the Imperialists at Sorbola, when Count Merci made a motion to San Prospero, as if he intended either to attack the enemy, or take possession of Parma. Marshal Coigny forthwith made a disposition for an engagement: and, on the 29th of June, the imperial general, having passed the Parma, began the attack with great impetuosity. He charged in person at the head of his troops, and was killed soon after the battle began. Nevertheless, the Prince of Wirtemberg assuming the command, both armies fought with great obstinacy, from eleven in the forenoon till four in the afternoon, when the Imperialists retired towards Monte Cirugalo, leaving five thousand men dead on the field of battle, and among these many officers of distinction. The loss of the allies was very considerable, and they reaped no solid fruits from their victory. The imperial forces retreated to Reggio, and from thence moved to the plains of Carpi, on the right of Secchia, where they received some reinforcements; then General Count Konigsfegg arriving in the camp, took upon himself the command of the army. His first step was to take post at Quingentrola, by which motion he secured Mirandola, that was threatened with a siege. On the 15th of February
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he forded the river Secchia, and surprized the quarters of Marshal Broglio, who escaped in his shirt with great difficulty. The French retired with such precipitation, that they left all their baggage behind, and above two thousand were taken prisoners. They posted themselves under Guastalla, where, on the 19th of the month, they were vigorously attacked by the Imperialists, and a general engagement ensued. Konigsegg made several desperate efforts to break the French cavalry, upon which, however, he could make no impression. The infantry on both sides fought with uncommon ardour for six hours, and the field was covered with carnage. At length the imperial general retreated to Lazara, after having lost above five thousand men, including the Prince of Wirtemberg, the Generals Valpareze and Colminero, with many other officers of distinction: nor was the damage sustained by the French greatly inferior to that of the Germans, who repassed the Po, and took post on the banks of the Oglio. The allies crossed the same river, and the Marquis de Maillebois was sent with a detachment to attack Mirandola; but the Imperialists marching to the relief of the place, compelled him to abandon the enterprize: then he rejoined his army, which retired under the walls of Cremona, to wait for succours from Don Carlos.

So little respect did the French court pay to the British nation, at this juncture, that in the month of November an edict was published at Paris, commanding all the British subjects in France, who were not actually in employment, from the age of eighteen to fifty, to quit the kingdom in fifteen days, or enlist in some of the Irish regiments, on pain of being treated as vagabonds, and sent to the galleys. This edict was executed with the utmost rigour. The prisons of Paris were crowded with the subjects of Great Britain, who were surprized and cut off from
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all communication with their friends, and must have perished with cold and hunger, had not they been relieved by the active charity of the Jansenists. Earl Walgrave, who then resided at Paris, as an ambassador from Great Britain made such vigorous remonstrances to the French ministry, upon this unheard-of outrage against a nation with which they had been so long in alliance, that they thought proper to set the prisoners at liberty, and publish another edict, by which the meaning of the former was explained away.

While these transactions occurred on the continent, the King of Great Britain augmented his land forces; and warm contests were maintained through the whole united kingdom in electing new representatives for the new parliament. But, in all these struggles the ministerial power predominated: and the new members appeared with the old complexion. The two houses assembled on the 14th of January, 1734, and Mr. Onslow was re-elected speaker. The leaders of both parties in all debates were the self-same persons who had conducted those of the former parliament; and the same measures were pursued in the same manner. The king, in his speech at the opening of the session, gave them to understand, that he had concerted with the States-General of the United Provinces such measures as were thought most advisable for their common safety, and for restoring the peace of Europe: that in a short time a plan would be offered to the consideration of all parties engaged in the war, as a basis for a general negotiation of peace. He observed, that whilst many of the principal powers of Europe were actually engaged in a war, Great Britain must be more or less affected with the consequences; and, therefore, expressed his hope, that his good subjects would not repine at the necessary means of procuring the blessings of peace and universal tranquillity, or of putting him in a condition to act that part which it might be necessary and incumbent

incumbent upon him to take. The address of thanks produced a dispute as usual, which ended with an acquiescence in the motion. The house, in a grand committee on the supply, resolved, that thirty thousand seamen should be employed for the service of the ensuing year; and that the land forces should be augmented to the number of twenty-five thousand seven hundred and forty-four effective men. But these resolutions were not taken without dispute and division. The minister's opponents not only reproduced all the reasons which had been formerly advanced against a standing army, but they opposed this augmentation with extraordinary ardour, as a huge stride towards the establishment of arbitrary power. They refuted those fears of external broils on which the ministry pretended to ground the necessity of such augmentation; and they exposed the weak conduct of the administration, in having contributed to destroy the balance of power, by assisting Spain against the emperor in Italy, so as to aggrandize the house of Bourbon.

The session was closed on the 15th of May, when the king, in his speech to both houses, declared, that the plan of pacification concerted between him and the States-General had not produced the desired effect. He thanked the commons for the supplies they had granted with such cheerfulness and dispatch. He signified his intention to visit his German dominions; and told them he should constitute the queen regent of the realm in his absence. Immediately after the prorogation, his majesty embarked for Holland, in his way to Hanover.

By this time the good understanding between the courts of Madrid and Lisbon was destroyed by a remarkable incident. The Portuguese ambassador at Madrid having allowed his servants to rescue a criminal from the officers of justice, all the servants concerned in the rescue were dragged from the house

to prison, by the Spanish king's order, with circumstances of rigour and disgrace. His Portuguese majesty being informed of this outrage, ordered reprisals to be made upon the servants of the Spanish ambassador in Lisbon. The two ministers withdrew abruptly to their respective courts. The two monarchs expressed their mutual repentment. The King of Spain assembled a body of troops on the frontiers of Portugal; and his Portuguese majesty had recourse to the assistance of King George. Don Marcos Antonio d'Alzeveda was dispatched to London, with the character of envoy extraordinary; and succeeded in his commission according to his wish. In a little time after the king's departure from England, Sir John Norris sailed from Spithead with a powerful squadron, in order to protect the Portuguese against the Spaniards; and, on the 9th of June, arrived at Lisbon, where he was welcomed as a deliverer. Mr. Keene, the British envoy at the court of Spain, had communicated to his catholic majesty, the resolution of his master to send a powerful squadron to Lisbon, with orders to guard that coast from insults, and secure the Brazil fleet, in which the merchants of Great Britain were deeply interested. Don Joseph Patinno, minister of his catholic majesty, delivered a memorial to Mr. Keene, representing, that such an expedition would affect the commerce of Spain, by intimidating foreign merchants from embarking their merchandize in the flota. But, in all probability, it prevented a rupture between the two crowns, and disposed the King of Spain to listen to terms of accommodation.

The powers in alliance against the house of Austria, having rejected the plan of pacification concerted by the King of Great Britain and the States-General, Mr. Walpole, ambassador at the Hague, presented a memorial to their high mightinesses, desiring they would, without loss of time, put themselves

selves in a posture of defence, by an augmentation of their forces at sea and land ; that they might take such vigorous steps, in concert with Great Britain, as the future conjuncture of affairs might require. But, before they would subject themselves to such expence, they resolved to make further trial of their influence with the powers in alliance against the emperor : and conferences were renewed with the ministers of those allies.

The affairs of Poland became more and more unfavourable to the interest of Stanislaus ; for though a great number of the Polish nobility engaged in a confederacy to support his claim, and made repeated efforts in his behalf, the Palatine of Kiow submitted to Augustus ; and even his brother the primate, after having sustained a long imprisonment, and many extraordinary hardships, was obliged to acknowledge that prince as his sovereign.

In Italy the arms of the allies still continued to prosper. Don Carlos landed in Sicily, and reduced the whole island, almost without opposition ; while the Imperialists were forced to abandon all the territories they possessed in Italy, except the Mantuan. The emperor, being equally unable to cope with the French armies on the Rhine, implored succours of the czarina, who sent thirty thousand men to his assistance. This interposition, and the success of Augustus in Poland, disposed the court of Versailles to a pacification. A secret negotiation was begun between France and the house of Austria ; and the preliminaries were signed without the concurrence or knowledge of Spain, Sardinia, and the maritime powers. In these articles it was stipulated, that France should restore all the conquests she had made in Germany : that the reversion of the dukedom of Tuscany should be vested in the Duke of Lorraine : that Lorraine should be allotted to King Stanislaus ; and after his death be united to the

crown of France: that the emperor should possess the Milanese, the Mantuan, and Parma: that the King of Sardinia should enjoy Vigevano and Novara: that Don Carlos should be acknowledged King of Naples and Sicily, and retain the island of Elba, with all the Spanish territories on the coast of Tuscany; and that France should guarantee the pragmatic sanction.

The King of Great Britain returned from Hanover to England in the month of November; and on the 15th of January, 1736, opened the session of parliament. On this occasion he congratulated them on the near prospect of a general peace in Europe, in consequence of the preliminary articles in which the emperor and the King of France had agreed; and of which he had expressed his approbation, as they did not differ in any essential point from the plan of pacification, which he and the States-General had offered to the belligerent powers. He told them, that he had already ordered a considerable reduction to be made in his forces both by sea and land; but at the same time observed it would be necessary to continue some extraordinary expence, until a more perfect reconciliation should be established among the several powers of Europe. An address of thanks was unanimously voted, and graciously received. After the house had received several petitions from different gentlemen, complaining of undue influence in elections, it proceeded to consider of the supply; and, Sir Charles Wager moving that fifteen thousand seamen should be employed for the service of the ensuing year, the proposal was approved without opposition.

In the month of February the king sent two members of the privy-council to the Prince of Wales, with a message, proposing a marriage between his royal highness and the Princess of Saxe Gotha. The proposal being agreeable to the prince, the marriage
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was celebrated on the 27th of April. Upon this occasion Mr. Pulteney moved for an address of congratulation to his majesty, and was supported by Mr. George Lyttleton and Mr. William Pitt, who seized this opportunity of pronouncing elegant panegyrics on the Prince of Wales and his amiable consort. These two young members soon distinguished themselves in the house by their eloquence and superior talents. In this session the parliament repealed the old statutes of England and Scotland against conjuration, witchcraft, and dealing with evil spirits. Among the acts passed in this session was one for naturalizing her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; and another for building a bridge across the Thames, from New Palace Yard, in the city of Westminster, to the opposite shore in the county of Surry. On the 20th of May the king closed the session with a speech, in which he signified his intention to visit his German dominions. Accordingly, the parliament was no sooner prorogued than he set out for Hanover, after having appointed the queen regent in his absence.

Such a degree of licentiousness prevailed over the whole nation, that the kingdom was filled with tumult and riots, which might have been prevented by proper regulations of the civil government, in a due execution of the laws. The most remarkable of these disturbances happened at Edinburgh, on the 7th of September. John Porteous, who commanded the guard paid by that city, had, at the execution of a smuggler, been provoked by some insults from the populace to order his men, without using the previous formalities of the law, to fire with shot among the crowd, by which precipitate order several innocent persons lost their lives. Porteous was tried for murder, convicted, and received sentence of death; but the queen, as guardian of the realm, thought proper to indulge him with a reprieve. The common people of Edinburgh resented this lenity shewn to a criminal,

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who was the object of their detestation. They remembered that pardons had been granted to divers military delinquents in that country, who had been condemned by legal trial. They seemed to think those were encouragements to oppression : they were fired by a national jealousy : they were stimulated by the relations and friends of those who had been murdered ; and they resolved to wreak their vengeance on the author of that tragedy, by depriving him of life on the very day which the judges had fixed for his execution. Thus determined, they assembled in different bodies, about ten o'clock at night. They blocked up the gates of the city, to prevent the admission of the troops that were quartered in the suburbs. They surprized and disarmed the town-guards : they broke open the prison-doors ; dragged Porteous from thence to the place of execution ; and, leaving him hanging by the neck on a dyer's pole, quietly dispersed to their several habitations. This exploit was performed with such conduct and deliberation as seemed to be the result of a plan formed by some persons of consequence : it therefore became the object of a very serious enquiry.

During this summer a rupture happened between the Turks and Russians, which last reduced the city of Azoph, on the Black Sea, and over-ran the greatest part of Crim Tartary. The czarina declared war against the Ottoman Porte, because the Tartars of the Crimea had made incursions upon her frontiers ; and when she complained of these disorders to the vizier, she received no satisfaction : besides, a large body of Tartars had, by order of that minister, marched through the Russian provinces in despite of the empress, and committed terrible havock in their route. The emperor was obliged to engage as a party in this war, by a treaty, offensive and defensive, which he had many years before concluded with the czarina. Yet, before he declared himself, he joined the maritime powers,

powers, in offering his mediation to the sultan, who was very well disposed to peace ; but the czarina insisted upon retaining Azoph, which her forces had reduced ; and this preliminary article being rejected, as dishonourable to the Ottoman empire, the court of Vienna began to make preparations for war. By this time all the belligerent powers in Italy had agreed to the preliminaries of peace concluded between the emperor and France. The Duke of Lorraine had espoused the emperor's eldest daughter, the Archduchess Maria Theresa, and ceded Lorraine to France, even before he succeeded to Tuscany. Don Carlos was crowned King of Sicily ; Stanislaus abdicated the crown of Poland, and Augustus was universally acknowledged sovereign of that kingdom. The preliminaries were approved and accepted by the diet of the empire : the King of Spain sent orders for his troops to evacuate Tuscany ; and the provinces in Italy yielded to the house of Austria. Prince Eugene, who had managed the interests of the emperor on this occasion, did not live to see the fruits of his negotiation. He died at Vienna, in April, at the age of seventy-three, leaving behind him the character of an invincible hero and consummate politician. He was not long survived by Count Staremberg, another imperial general, who ranked next to the prince in military reputation. About the same time Great Britain sustained a national loss in the death of Lord-chancellor Talbot, who, by his worth, probity, and acquired accomplishments, had dignified the great office to which he had been raised. He died universally lamented, in the month of February, at the age of fifty-two ; and was succeeded on the bench by Lord Hardwicke.

The king being indisposed, in consequence of having been fatigued by a very tempestuous passage from Holland, the parliament was prorogued from the 21st of January, 1737, to the 1st of February, and then the session was opened by commission. The lord-chancellor

chancellor made a speech, in his majesty's name, to both houses. With respect to foreign affairs, he told them, that the respective acts of cession being exchanged, and orders given for the evacuation and possession of the several countries and places, by the powers concerned, according to the allotment and disposition of the preliminary articles, the great work of re-establishing the general tranquillity was far advanced: that, however, common prudence called upon them to be very attentive to the final conclusion of the new settlement. After the commons had agreed to an address, and heard counsel on some controverted elections, they proceeded to take the supply into consideration. They voted ten thousand men for the sea-service. They continued for the land-service the same number they had maintained in times of tranquillity, amounting to seventeen thousand seven hundred and four; but this measure was not adopted without opposition; the money was raised by the land and malt-taxes, reinforced with one million granted out of the sinking-fund.

THE chief subject of contention, in the course of this session, was a motion which Mr Pulteney made for an address to his majesty, that he would be pleased to settle 100,000*l.* a-year upon the Prince of Wales, instead of 50,000*l.* which he then enjoyed. He represented that such provision was conformable to the practice of ancient times: that what he proposed had been enjoyed by his present majesty in the life-time of his father; and that a settlement of this nature was reasonable and necessary, to ascertain the independence of the apparent heir to the crown. The motion was opposed by Sir Robert Walpole, as an encroachment on the prerogative; as an officious intermeddling in the king's family affairs: and as an effort to set his majesty and the prince at variance. But a misunderstanding, it seems, had already happened in the royal family. Sir Robert Walpole endeavoured

to demonstrate, that the annual sum of 50,000*l.* was as much as the king could afford to allow for the prince's maintenance; and he expatiated upon the bad consequences that might ensue, if the son should be rendered altogether independent of the father.

These suggestions did not pass unanswered. The supporters of the motion observed, that the allowance of fifty thousand pounds was not sufficient to defray the prince's yearly expence, without allotting one shilling for acts of charity and munificence; and that the several deductions for land-taxes and fees reduced it to 43,000*l.* They affirmed, that his whole income, including the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall, did not exceed 52,000*l.* a-year, though, by his majesty's own regulation, the expence of the prince's household amounted to 63,000*l.* The motion was, however, rejected by the majority; though in the same session an act was passed for settling 50,000 a-year on the Princess of Wales.

The next remarkable contest was occasioned by a motion of Sir Robert Walpole, who proposed the sum of 1,000,000*l.* should be granted to his majesty, towards redeeming the like sum of the increased capital of the South-Sea company, commonly called South-Sea annuities. Several members argued for the expediency of applying this sum to the payment of the debt due to the Bank, as part of that incumbrance was saddled with an interest of six per cent. whereas the interest paid for the other sums that constituted the public debt did not exceed four per cent. Many plausible arguments were offered on both sides of the question; and at length the motion was carried in the affirmative. The house having resolved itself into a committee to consider of the national debt, Sir John Barnard made a motion for enabling his majesty to raise money either by the sale of annuities or by borrowing interest not exceeding three per cent. to be applied towards redeeming the South-Sea annuities;

ities; and that such of the said annuitants as should be inclined to subscribe their respective annuities, should be preferred to all others. He said, that even those public securities which bore an interest of three per cent. only were sold at a premium in 'Change Alley: he was, therefore, persuaded, that all those who were willing to give a premium for a three per cent. security would gladly lend their money to the government at the same interest, should books of subscription be opened for that purpose, with an assurance that no part of the principal should be paid off for fourteen years. He expatiated upon the national advantages that would accrue from a reduction of interest. From easy and obvious calculations he inferred, that in a very little time the interest upon all the South-Sea annuities would be reduced from four to three per cent. without any danger to public credit, or breach of public faith: that then the produce of the sinking-fund would amount to 140,000*l.* per annum, to be applied only towards redeeming the capital of the several trading companies: he proved that this measure would bring every one of them so much within the power of parliament, that they would be glad to accept of three per cent. interest on any reasonable terms; in which case the sinking-fund would rise to 1,600,000 per annum. Then the parliament might venture to annihilate one-half of it, by freeing the people from the taxes upon coals, candles, soap, leather, and other such impositions as lay heavy upon the poor labourers and manufacturers: the remaining part of the sinking-fund might be applied towards the discharge of those annuities and public debts which bore an interest of three per cent. only, and afterwards towards diminishing the capitals of the several trading companies till the term of fourteen years should be expired; then the sinking-fund would again amount to above a million yearly, which would be sufficient for paying them off,

off, and freeing the nation entirely from all its incumbrances. This salutary scheme was violently opposed by Alderman Heathcote, and other partisans of the ministry; yet all their objections were refuted; and, in order to defeat the project, they were obliged to have recourse to artifice. Mr. Winnington moved, that all the public creditors, as well as the South-Sea annuitants, should be comprehended. Sir John Barnard demonstrated, that it might be easy for the government to borrow money at three per cent. sufficient for paying off such of the proprietors of four-and-twenty millions as were not willing to accept of that interest, but it would be extremely difficult to borrow enough to satisfy the proprietors of four-and-forty millions, who might choose to have their principal rather than such an interest. Nevertheless, resolutions were founded on this and other alterations of the original scheme; and a bill was immediately prepared. It produced many other debates, and was at last postponed by dint of ministerial influence. The same venerable patriot, who projected this scheme, moved that as soon as the interest of all the national redeemable debt should be reduced to three per cent. the house would take off some of the heavy taxes which oppressed the poor and the manufacturers: but this motion was rejected by the majority.

The last disputes of this session were excited by a bill for punishing the magistrates and city of Edinburgh, on account of the murder of John Porteous. Lord Carteret insisted upon the atrocious murder of Captain Porteous as a flagrant insult upon the government, and a violation of the public peace, so much the more dangerous, as it seemed to have been concerted and executed with deliberation and decency. He suspected that some citizens of Edinburgh had been concerned in the murder, not only from this circumstance, but likewise because, notwithstanding the reward of 200*l.* which had been

offered by proclamation for the discovery of any person who acted in that tragedy, not one individual had as yet been detected. A bill was brought in to disable Alexander Wilson, Esq. lord provost of Edinburgh, from enjoying any office or place of magistracy in the city of Edinburgh, or elsewhere in Great Britain; for imprisoning the said Alexander Wilson; for abolishing the guard of that city; and for taking away the gates of the Nether Bow-Port, so as to open a communication between the city and the suburbs, in which the king's troops are quartered. The bill was sent down to the commons, who set on foot a severe scrutiny into the particular circumstances that preceded and attended the murder. From the examination of the witnesses it appeared that no freeman or citizen of Edinburgh was concerned in the riot, which was chiefly composed of country people, excited by the relations of some unhappy persons whom Porteous and his men had slain at the execution of the smuggler: and these were assisted by 'prentice boys, and the lowest class of vagabonds that happened to be at Edinburgh: that the lord provost had taken all the precautions to prevent mischief that his reflexion suggested: that he even exposed his person to the rage of the multitude, in his endeavours to disperse them; and that, if he had done amiss, he erred from want of judgment, rather than from the want of inclination to protect the unhappy Porteous. The Scottish members exerted themselves with uncommon vivacity in defence of their capital. Lord Polwarth declared, that, if any gentleman would shew where one argument in the charge against the lord provost and the city of Edinburgh had been proved, he would that instant give his vote for the commitment of the bill. He said, if gentlemen would lay their hands on their hearts, and ask themselves whether they would have voted in this manner had the case of Edinburgh been that of the city of Bristol, York, or Norwich, he

he was persuaded they would have required that every title of the charge against them should have been fully and undeniably proved. Some amendments and mitigations being inserted in the bill, it passed the house, was sent back to the lords, who agreed to the alterations, and then received the royal assent. On the 21st of June the king made a short speech to both houses, and the lord chancellor prorogued the parliament.

A congress had been opened at Niemerow, in Poland, to compromise the differences between the czarina and the grand signior; but this proving ineffectual, the emperor declared war against the Turks, and demanded assistance from the diet of the empire. He concerted the operations of the campaign with the Empress of Muscovy. It was agreed that the Imperialists, under Count Seckendorff, should attack Widin in Servia, whilst the Russians, commanded by Count Munich, should penetrate to the Ukraine, and besiege Oczakow, on the Boristhenes. They accordingly advanced against this place, which was garrisoned by twenty thousand men; and, on the side of the Boristhenes defended by eighteen galleys. The Muscovites carried on their approaches with such impetuosity and perseverance, that the Turks were terrified at their valour, and in a few days capitulated. Among those who signalized themselves by uncommon marks of prowess in these attacks, was General Keith, now field-marshal in the Prussian service, who was dangerously wounded on this occasion. Meanwhile Count Seckendorff, finding it impossible to reduce Widin without a squadron of ships on the Danube, turned his arms against Nissa, which was surrendered to him on the 28th of July; but this was the farthest verge of his good fortune. The Turks attacked the post which the Imperialists occupied along the Danube. They took the fort of Padudil, burned the town of Ilas in Wallachia, and plundered the

the neighbouring villages. The Prince of Saxe Hilburghausen, who had invested Bagnalack in Bosnia, was defeated, and obliged to repass the Saave. Count Seckendorf was recalled to Vienna; and the command of the army devolved upon Count Philippi. Count Kevenhuller was obliged to retreat from Servia; and Nissa was retaken by the Mussulmen. The conferences at Niemerow were broken off; and the Turkish plenipotentiaries returned to Constantinople.

Poland now enjoyed perfect repose under the dominion of Augustus. Ferdinand, the old Duke of Courland, dying without issue, the succession was disputed by the Teutonic order and the kingdom of Poland, while the states of Courland claimed a right of election, and sent deputies to Petersburg, imploring the protection of the czarina. A body of Russian troops immediately entered that country: and the states elected the Count de Biron, high chamberlain to the Empress of Muscovy. The Elector of Cologne, as grand master of the Teutonic order, protested against this election: but the King of Poland agreed to it, on certain conditions settled at Dantzic with the commissaries of the new duke and those of the czarina. In the month of July, John Gaston de Medicis, great duke of Tuscany, died at Florence; and the Prince de Craon took possession of his territories, in the name of the Duke of Lorraine, to whom the emperor had already granted the eventual investiture of that duchy.

In England, the attention of the public was attracted by an open breach in the royal family. The Princess of Wales had advanced to the very last month of her pregnancy before the king and queen were informed of her being with child. She was twice conveyed from Hampton-court to St. James's when her labour-pains were supposed to be approaching; and at length was delivered of a princess about

two hours after her arrival. The king, being apprised of this event, sent a message to the prince, expressing his displeasure at the conduct of his royal highness, as an indignity offered to himself and the queen; and to inform him, that the whole tenor of his conduct, for a considerable time, had been so entirely void of all real duty, that his majesty had reason to be highly offended with him. He gave him to understand, that, until he should withdraw his regard and confidence from those by whose instigation and advice he was directed and encouraged in his unwarrantable behaviour to his majesty and the queen, and return to his duty, he should not reside in the palace; he, therefore, signified his pleasure that he should leave St. James's, with all his family, when it could be done without prejudice or inconvenience to the princess. In obedience to this order, the prince retired to Kew. Whatever might have been his design in concealing so long from the king and queen the pregnancy of the princess, and afterwards hurrying her from place to place in such a condition, to the manifest hazard of her life, his majesty had certainly cause to be offended at this part of his conduct: though the punishment seems to have been severe, if not rigorous; for he was not even admitted into the presence of the queen his mother, to express his duty to her, in her last moments, to implore her forgiveness, and receive her last blessing. Queen Caroline died of a mortification in her bowels, on the 20th of November, 1737, in the fifty-fifth year of her age, regretted as a princess of uncommon sagacity, and as a pattern of conjugal virtue.

The king opened the session of parliament on the 24th of January, 1738, with a short speech, recommending the dispatch of the public business with prudence and unanimity. Each house presented a warm address of condolence on the queen's death, with which he seemed to be extremely affected. Though
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the commons sympathised with the king in his affliction, the minister still met with contradiction in some of his favourite measures. One would imagine that all the arguments for and against a standing army in time of peace had been already exhausted; but, when it was moved that the same number of land-forces which they had voted in the preceding year should be continued in pay for the ensuing year, the dispute was renewed with surprising vivacity, and produced some reasons which had not been suggested before. The adherents of the minister fairly owned, that if the army should be disbanded, or even considerably reduced, they believed the tory interest would prevail: that the present number of forces was absolutely necessary to maintain the peace of the kingdom, which was filled with clamour and discontent, as well as to support the whig interest. The members in the opposition replied, that this declaration was a severe satire on the ministry, whose conduct had given birth to such a spirit of discontent. They said it was in effect a tacit acknowledgment, that what they called the whig interest was no more than an inconsiderable party, which had engrossed the administration by indirect methods; which acted contrary to the sense of the nation; and depended for support upon a military power, by which the people in general were overawed, and consequently enslaved. They affirmed, that the discontent of which the ministry complained was in a great measure owing to that very standing army, which perpetuated their taxes, and hung over their heads as the instruments of arbitrary power and oppression. The ministry triumphed as usual, and the same number of forces was continued.

Ever since the treaty of Seville, the Spaniards in America had almost incessantly insulted and distressed the commerce of Great Britain. They disputed the right of English traders to cut logwood in

in the bay of Campeachy, and gather salt on the island of Tortugas; though that right was acknowledged by implication in all the treaties which had been lately concluded between the two nations. The captains of their armed vessels, known by the name of guarda-costas, had made a practice of boarding and plundering British ships, on pretence of searching for contraband commodities, on which occasions they had behaved with the utmost insolence, cruelty, and rapine. Some of their ships of war had actually attacked a fleet of English merchant ships at the island of Tortugas, as if they had been at open enmity with England. They had seized and detained a great number of British vessels, imprisoned their crews, and confiscated their cargoes, in violation of treaties, in defiance of common justice and humanity. Repeated memorials were presented to the court of Spain, by the British ambassador at Madrid. He was amused with evasive answers, vague promises of enquiry, and cedulas of instructions sent to the Spanish governors in America, to which they paid no sort of regard. Not but that the Spaniards had reason to complain, in their turn, of the illicit commerce which the English traders from Jamaica and other islands carried on with their subjects on the continent of South America: though this could not justify the depredations and cruelties which the commanders of the guarda-costas had committed, without provocation or pretence. The merchants of England loudly complained of these outrages: the nation was fired with resentment, and cried for vengeance; but Walpole knew that a war would involve him in such difficulties as must of necessity endanger his administration: the treasure which he now employed for domestic purposes, must in that case be expended in military armaments: the wheels of that machine on which he had raised his influence would no longer move: the opposition would of consequence gain

ground, and the imposition of fresh taxes, necessary for the maintenance of the war, would fill up the measure of popular resentment against his person and ministry. Moved by these considerations, he industriously endeavoured to avoid a rupture, and to obtain some sort of satisfaction by dint of memorials and negotiations, in which he betrayed his own fears to such a degree, as animated the Spaniards to persist in their depredations, and encouraged the court of Madrid to disregard the remonstrances of the British ambassador. But his apprehension of war did not proceed from Spain only: the two branches of the house of Bourbon were now united by politics, as well as by consanguinity; and he did not doubt, that, in case of a rupture with Spain, they would join their forces against Great Britain. Petitions were delivered to the house by merchants from different parts of the kingdom, explaining the repeated violences to which they had been exposed, and imploring relief of the parliament. These were referred to a committee of the whole house; and an order was made to admit the petitioners, if they should think fit, to be heard by themselves or by counsel. Sir John Barnard moved for an address to the king, that all the memorials and papers relating to the Spanish depredations should be laid before the house; and this, with some alteration proposed by Sir Robert Walpole, was actually presented. In compliance with the request, an enormous multitude of letters and memorials was produced.

The house, in a grand committee, proceeded to hear counsel for the merchants, and examine evidence; by which it appeared, that amazing acts of wanton cruelty and injustice had been perpetrated by Spaniards on the subjects of Great Britain. Mr. Pulteney expatiated upon these circumstances of barbarity. He demonstrated from treaties, the rights of the British traders to the logwood of Campeachy, and

to the salt of Tortugas: he exposed the pusillanimity of the minister, and the futility of his negotiations: he moved for such resolutions as would evince the resentment of an injured nation, and the vigour of a British parliament. These were warmly combated by Sir Robert Walpole, who affirmed, they would cramp the ministers in their endeavours to compromise these differences: that they would frustrate their negotiations, entrench upon the king's prerogative, and precipitate the nation into an unnecessary and expensive war. Answers produced replies, and a general debate ensued. A resolution was reported; but the question being put for re-committing it, was carried in the negative. The house, however, agreed to an address, beseeching his majesty to use his endeavours to obtain effectual relief for his injured subjects, to convince the court of Spain that his majesty could no longer suffer such constant and repeated insults and injuries to be carried on, to the dishonour of his crown, and to the ruin of his trading subjects; and assuring him, that in case his royal and friendly instances with the catholic king should miscarry, the house would effectually support his majesty in taking such measures as honour and justice should make it necessary for him to pursue. To this address the king made a favourable answer.—The parliament was prorogued on the 20th of May.

On the 4th of June, 1738, the Princess of Wales was delivered of a son, who was baptised by the name of George, now King of Great Britain. His birth was celebrated with uncommon rejoicings: addresses of congratulation were presented to the king by the two universities, and by almost all the cities and communities of the kingdom. But the Prince of Wales still laboured under the displeasure of his majesty, who had ordered the lord chamberlain to signify in the gazette, that no person who visited the prince should be admitted to the court of St. James's.

His royal highness was divested of all the external marks of royalty, and lived like a private gentleman, cultivating the virtues of a social life, and enjoying the best fruits of conjugal felicity.

In the latter end of this month, Rear-admiral Haddock set sail with a strong squadron for the Mediterranean, which it was hoped would give weight to the negotiation of the British minister at the court of Madrid.

The war maintained by the emperor and the czarina, against the Ottoman Porte, had not yet produced any decisive event. Count Seckendorf was disgraced and confined, on account of the ill success of the last campaign. General Doxat was tried by a council of war at Belgrade, and condemned to death, for having surrendered to the enemy the town of Nissa, in which he commanded. The diet of the empire granted a subsidy of fifty Roman months to the emperor, who began to make vigorous preparations for the ensuing campaign: but, in the mean time, Ragotski, vaivode of Transylvania, revolved against the house of Austria, and brought a considerable army into the field, under the protection of the grand signor. He was immediately proclaimed a rebel, and a price set upon his head by the court of Vienna. The Turks, taking the field early, reduced the fort of Ufitza and Meadi, and undertook the siege of Orsova, which, however, they abandoned at the approach of the imperial army, commanded by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, assisted by Count Königsegg. The Turks, being reinforced, marched back, and attacked the Imperialists, by whom they were repulsed after an obstinate engagement. The Germans, notwithstanding this advantage, repassed the Danube; and then the infidels made themselves masters of Orsova, where they found a fine train of artillery, designed for the siege of Widin. By the conquest of this place, the Turks laid the Danube open to their gallees

gallies and vessels; and the Germans retired under the cannon of Belgrade. In the Ukraine, the Russians under General Count Munich obtained the advantage over the Turks in two engagements; and General Lacy routed the Tartars of the Crimea: but they returned in greater numbers, and harrassed the Muscovites in such a manner, by intercepting their provisions, and destroying the country, that they were obliged to abandon the lines of Precops.

In the month of October, an affair of very small importance produced a rupture between the King of Denmark and the Elector of Hanover. A detachment of Hanoverians took by assault the castle of Steinhorst, belonging to the privy counsellor Wederkop, and defended by thirty Danish dragoons, who had received orders to repel force by force. Several men were killed on both sides, before the Hanoverians could enter the place, when the garrison was disarmed, and conducted to the frontiers. This petty dispute, about a small territory which did not yield the value of 1,000*l.* a-year, had well nigh involved Hanover in a war, which, in all probability, Great Britain must have maintained: but this dispute was compromised by a convention between the Kings of England and Denmark.

The session of parliament was opened on the 1st of February, 1739; when the king, in his speech to both houses, gave them to understand, that a convention was concluded and ratified between him and the King of Spain, who had obliged himself to make reparation to the British subjects for their losses, by certain stipulated payments: the plenipotentiaries were named and appointed for regulating, within a limited time, all those grievances and abuses which had hitherto interrupted the commerce of Great Britain in the American seas; and for settling all matters in dispute, in such a manner as might for the future prevent and remove all new causes and pretences

tences of complaint. This famous convention, concluded at the Prado on the 14th of January, imported, that within six weeks, to be reckoned from the day on which the ratifications were exchanged, two ministers plenipotentiaries should meet at Madrid, to confer, and finally regulate the respective pretensions of the two crowns, with relation to the trade and navigation in America and Europe, and to the limits of Florida and Carolina, as well as concerning other points which remained likewise to be adjusted, according to the former treaties subsisting between the two nations: that the plenipotentiaries should finish their conferences within the space of eight months: that in the mean time no progress should be made in the fortifications of Florida and Carolina: that his catholic majesty should pay to the King of Great Britain the sum of 95,000*l.* for a balance due to the crown and subjects of Great Britain, after deduction made of the demands of the crown and subjects of Spain: that this sum should be employed for the satisfaction, discharge, and payment, of the demands of the British subjects upon the crown of Spain: that this reciprocal discharge, however, should not extend or relate to the accounts and differences which subsisted and were to be settled between the crown of Spain and the Asiento company, nor to any particular or private contracts that might subsist between either of the two crowns, or their ministers, with the subjects of the other; or between the subjects and subjects of each nation respectively: that his catholic majesty should cause the sum of 95,000*l.* to be paid at London within four months, to be reckoned from the day on which the ratifications were exchanged. Such was the substance of that convention, which alarmed and provoked the merchants and traders of Great Britain, excited the indignation of all those who retained any regard for the honour of their country, and raised a general cry against the minister.

The eyes of the whole kingdom were now turned upon the house of commons. The two contending parties summoned their whole force for the approaching dispute: on the day appointed for considering the convention, four hundred members had taken their seats by eight in the morning. In a committee of the whole house, certain West-India merchants and planters were heard against the convention: so that this and the following day were employed in reading papers and obtaining information. On the 8th of March, Mr. H. Walpole, having launched out in the praise of that agreement, moved for an address of approbation to his majesty. He was seconded by Mr. Campbell, of Pembroke-shire; and the debate began with extraordinary ardour. He who first distinguished himself in the lists was Sir Thomas Sander-son, at that time treasurer to the Prince of Wales, afterwards Earl of Scarborough. All the officers and adherents of his royal highness had joined the opposition; and he himself, on this occasion, sat in the gallery, to hear the debate on such an important transaction. Sir Thomas Sander-son observed, that the Spaniards by the convention, instead of giving us reparation, had obliged us to give them a general release. They had not allowed the word *satisfaction* to be so much as once mentioned in the treaty. Even the Spanish pirate who had cut off the ear of Captain Jenkins, and used the most insulting expression towards the person of the king—an expression which no British subject could decently repeat—an expression which no man that had a regard for his sovereign could ever forgive—even this fellow lived to enjoy the fruits of his rapine, and remained a living testimony of the cowardly tameness and mean submission of Great Britain; of the triumphant haughtiness and stubborn pride of Spain. Lord Gage, one of the most keen, spirited, and sarcastic, orators in the house, stated in this manner the
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account of the satisfaction obtained from the court of Spain by the convention: The losses sustained by the Spanish depredations amounted to 340,000*l.* the commissary, by a stroke of his pen, reduced this demand to 200,000*l.* then 45,000*l.* was struck off for prompt payment: he next allotted 60,000*l.* as the remaining part of a debt pretended to be due to Spain, for the destruction of her fleet by Sir George Byng, though it appeared by the instructions on the table, that Spain had been already amply satisfied on that head: these deductions reduced the balance to 95,000*l.* but the King of Spain insisted upon the South Sea company's paying immediately the sum of 68,000*l.* as a debt due to him on one head of accounts, though, in other articles, his catholic majesty was indebted to the company a million over and above this demand: the remainder to be paid by Spain did not exceed 27,000*l.* from which she insisted upon deducting whatever she might have already given in satisfaction for any of the British ships that had been taken; and on being allowed the value of the *St. Theresa*, a Spanish ship which had been seized in the port of Dublin. Mr. W. Pitt, with an energy of argument and diction peculiar to himself, declaimed against the convention, as insecure, unsatisfactory, and dishonourable to Great Britain. He said the great national objection, the searching of British ships, was not admitted, indeed, in the preamble; but stood there as the reproach of the whole, as the strongest evidence of the fatal submission that followed: on the part of Spain, an usurpation, an inhuman tyranny claimed and exercised over the American seas; on the part of England, an undoubted right by treaties, and from God and nature declared and asserted in the resolutions of parliament; were now referred to the discussion of plenipotentiaries, upon one and the same equal foot. This undoubted right was to be discussed and regulated; and if to regulate be to prescribe

scribe rules, as in all construction it is, that right was, by the express words of the convention, to be given up and sacrificed; for it must cease to be any thing from the moment it is submitted to limitation.

The ministers, in vindication of the convention, asserted, that the satisfaction granted by Spain was adequate to the injury received: that it was only the preliminary of a treaty which would remove all causes of complaint: that war was always expensive and detrimental to a trading nation, as well as uncertain in its events: that France and Spain would certainly join their forces in case of a rupture with Great Britain: that there was not one power in Europe upon which the English could depend for effectual assistance; and that the war would favour the cause and design of a popish pretender. The house, upon a division, agreed to the address; but, when a motion was made for its being re-committed, the two parties renewed the engagement with redoubled eagerness and impetuosity. Sir William Wyndham and Mr. Pulteney poured all the thunder of their eloquence against the insolence of Spain, and the concessions of the British ministry. Sir Robert Walpole exerted all his fortitude and dexterity in defence of himself and his measures, and the question being put, the resolutions for the address were carried by a small majority. Then, Sir William Wyndham standing up, made a pathetic remonstrance upon this determination: "This address (said he) is intended to convince mankind, that the treaty under our consideration is a reasonable and an honourable treaty. But if a majority of twenty-eight in such a full house should fail of that success; if the people should not implicitly resign their reason to a vote of this house, what will be the consequence? Will not the parliament lose its authority? Will it not be thought, that even in the parliament we are governed by a faction? and what the consequence of this may be, I leave to

those gentlemen to consider, who are now to give their vote for this address: for my own part, I will trouble you no more, but, with these my last words, I sincerely pray to Almighty God, who has so often wonderfully protected these kingdoms, that he will graciously continue his protection over them, by preserving us from that impending danger which threatens the nation from without, and likewise from that impending danger which threatens our constitution from within." The minister was, on this occasion, deserted by his usual temper, and even provoked into personal abuse. He declared, that the gentleman who was now the mouth of his opponents had been looked upon as the head of those traitors, who twenty-five years before conspired the destruction of their country and of the royal family, in order to set a popish pretender upon the throne: that he was seized by the vigilance of the then government, and pardoned by its clemency, but all the use he had ungratefully made of that clemency; was to qualify himself according to law, that he and his party might some time or other have an opportunity to overthrow all law. He branded them all as traitors, and expressed his hope, that their behaviour would unite all the true friends of the present happy establishment. To such a degree of mutual animosity were both sides inflamed, that the most eminent members of the minority actually retired from parliament, and returned no more during that session.

The dispute occasioned by the convention in the house of lords, was maintained with equal warmth. After this famous treaty had been considered, Lord Carteret suggested, that possibly one of the contracting powers had presented a protest or declaration, importing that she acceded to such or such a measure, only upon condition that the terms of that protest or declaration should be made good. He said, that until his mind should be free from the most distant

distant suspicion that such a paper might exist in the present case, he could not form a just opinion of the transaction himself, nor communicate to their lordships any light which might be necessary for that purpose. The adherents to the ministry endeavoured to evade his curiosity in this particular, by general assertions: but he insisted on his suspicion with such perseverance, that at length the ministry produced the copy of a declaration made by the King of Spain before he ratified the convention, signifying that his catholic majesty reserved to himself, in its full force, the right of being able to suspend the assiento of negroes, in case the company should not pay within a short time the sum of 68,000*l.* sterling, owing to Spain on the duty of negroes, or on the profit of the ship *Caroline*; that under the validity and force of this protest, the signing of the said convention might be proceeded on, and in no other manner. In the debate that ensued, Lord Carteret displayed a surprising extent of political knowledge, recommended by all the graces of elocution, chaste, pure, dignified, and delicate. Lord Bathurst argued against the articles of convention with his usual spirit, integrity, and good sense, particularly animated by an honest indignation which the wrongs of his country had inspired. The Earl of Chesterfield attacked this inglorious measure with all the weight of argument, and all the poignancy of satire. The Duke of Argyle, no longer a partisan of the ministry, inveighed against it as infamous, treacherous, and destructive, with all the fire, impetuosity, and enthusiasm, of declamation. It was defended with unequal arms by the Duke of Newcastle, the Earl of Cholmondely, Lord Hervey, the lord chancellor, the Bishop of Salisbury, and in particular by the Earl of Ilay, a nobleman of extensive capacity and uncommon erudition; remarkable for his knowledge of the civil law, and seemingly formed by nature for a politician; cool, discerning, plausible,

artful, and enterprising, staunch to the minister, and invariably true to his own interest. The dispute was learned, long, and obstinate: but ended as usual, in the discomfiture of those who had stigmatised the treaty. The house agreed to an address, in which they thanked his majesty for his gracious condescension in laying before them the convention; they acknowledged his gracious prudence in bringing the demands of his subjects for their past losses, which had been so long depending, to a final adjustment; in procuring an express stipulation for a speedy payment; and in laying a foundation for accomplishing the great and desirable ends of obtaining future security; and preserving the peace between the two nations. They declared their confidence in the royal wisdom, that in the treaty to be concluded in pursuance of the convention, proper provisions would be made for the redress of the grievances of which the nation had so justly complained: they assured his majesty, that in case his just expectations should not be answered, the house would heartily and zealously concur in all such measures as should be necessary to vindicate his majesty's honour, and to preserve to his subjects the full enjoyment of all those rights to which they were entitled by treaty and the law of nations. This was a hard-won victory. At the head of those who voted against the address we find the Prince of Wales. His example was followed by six dukes, two-and-twenty earls, four viscounts, eighteen barons, four bishops; and their party was re-inforced by sixteen proxies. A spirited protest was entered and subscribed by nine-and-thirty peers.

Then the Duke of Newcastle produced a subsidy-treaty, by which his majesty obliged himself to pay the King of Denmark 70,000*l.* per annum, on condition of the Dane's furnishing to his Britannic majesty a body of six thousand men, when demanded. At the same time, his grace delivered a message from the

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the king, desiring the house would enable him to fulfil this engagement; and also to raise what money and troops the exigency of affairs, during the approaching recess, might require. Another vehement dispute arose from this proposal. With respect to the treaty, Lord Carteret observed, that no use could be made of the Danish troops in any expedition undertaken against Spain, because it was stipulated in the treaty, that they should not be used either in Italy, or on-board of the fleet, or be transported in whole or in part beyond sea, after they should have marched out of the territories of Denmark, except for the defence of the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland; nay, should France join against the English, the Danes could not act against that power or Spain, except as part of an army formed in Germany or Flanders. This body of Danes may be said, therefore, to have been retained for the defence and protection of Hanover: or, if the interest of Britain was at all consulted in the treaty, it must have been in preventing the Danes from joining their fleets to those of France and Spain. Then he argued against the second part of the message with great vivacity. He said nothing could be more dangerous to the constitution than a general and unlimited vote of credit. He affirmed that the practice was but of modern date in England: that it was never heard of before the revolution; and never became frequent until the nation was blessed with the present administration. He said, if ever a general vote of credit and confidence should become a customary compliment from the parliament to the crown at the end of every session, or as often as the minister might think fit to desire it, parliaments would grow despicable in the eyes of the people: then a proclamation might be easily substituted in its stead, and happy would it be for the nation if that should be sufficient; for when a parliament ceases to be a check upon ministers, it becomes an useless and unnecessary burthen

burthen on the people. The Duke of Argyle and the Earl of Chesterfield enlarged upon the same topics. Nevertheless, the house complied with the message; and the same message being communicated to the commons, they voted 70,583*l.* for the subsidy to Denmark, and 500,000*l.* for augmenting the forces on an emergency.

As Great Britain stood engaged by the convention to pay to the crown of Spain the sum of 60,000*l.* in consideration of the ships taken and destroyed by Sir George Byng, which sum was to be applied to the relief of the British merchants who had suffered by the Spanish depredations, the commons inserted in a bill a clause, providing for this sum to be paid by parliament. When the bill was read in the house of lords, a motion was made by Lord Bathurst for an address, to know, whether Spain had paid the money stipulated by the convention, as the time limited for the payment of it was now expired. The Duke of Newcastle, by his majesty's permission, acquainted the house, that it was not paid; and that Spain had as yet given no reason for the non-payment. The minister, however, in order to atone in some measure for his former supineness, now began to put the nation into a condition for war. Letters of marque and reprisals were granted against the Spaniards: a promotion was made of general officers: the troops were augmented: a great fleet was assembled at Spithead; a reinforcement sent out to Admiral Haddock; and an embargo laid on all merchant ships outward bound. Notwithstanding these preparations, Mr. Keen, the British minister at Madrid, declared to the court of Spain, that his master, although he had permitted his subjects to make reprisals, would not be understood to have broken the peace; and that this permission would be recalled as soon as his catholic majesty should be disposed to make the satisfaction which had been so justly demanded. But he was given to understand, that

that the King of Spain looked upon those reprisals as acts of hostility; and that he hoped, with the assistance of heaven and his allies, he should be able to support a good cause against his adversaries. He published a manifesto in justification of his own conduct, complaining that Admiral Haddock had received orders to cruise with his squadron between the capes of St. Vincent and St. Mary, in order to surprise the *Assogue* ships; that letters of reprisal had been published at London, in an indecent style, and even carried into execution in different parts of the world. He excused his non payment of the 95,000*l.* stipulated in the convention, by affirming that the British court had first contravened the articles of that treaty, by the orders sent to Haddock; by continuing to fortify Georgia; by reinforcing the squadron at Jamaica; and by eluding the payment of the 68,000*l.* due to Spain from the South-Sea company, on the *asiento* for negroes. The French ambassador at the Hague declared that the king his master was obliged by treaties to assist his catholic majesty by sea and land, in case he should be attacked; he dissuaded the States-General from espousing the quarrel of Great Britain; and they assured him they would observe a strict neutrality, though they could not avoid furnishing his Britannic majesty with such succours as he could demand by virtue of the treaties subsisting between the two powers. The people of England were inspired with uncommon alacrity at the near prospect of war, for which they had so long clamoured: and the ministry, seeing it unavoidable, began to be earnest and effectual in their preparations. Nothing tended more to exasperate the nation against the Spaniards, than the then recent story of Captain Jenkins, master of a Scottish merchant ship. He was boarded by the captain of a Spanish guarda-costa, who treated him in the most barbarous manner. The Spaniards, after having rummaged his vessel for what
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they called contraband commodities, without finding any thing to justify their search, insulted Jenkins with the most opprobrious invectives. They tore off one of his ears, bidding him carry it to his king, and tell him they would serve him in the same manner should an opportunity offer: they tortured him with the most shocking cruelty, and threatened him with immediate death. This man was examined at the bar of the house of commons, and being asked by a member, what he thought when he found himself in the hands of such barbarians? "I recommended my soul to God, said he, and my cause to my country." The behaviour of this brave seaman, the sight of his ear, which was produced, with his account of the indignities which had been offered to the nation and sovereign of Great Britain, filled the whole house with indignation. Jenkins was afterwards employed in the service of the East-India company: he approved himself worthy of his good fortune, in a long engagement with the pirate Angria, during which he behaved with extraordinary courage and conduct; and saved his own ship, with three others that were under his convoy.

The events of war were still unfavourable to the emperor. He had bestowed the command of his army upon Count Wallis, who assembled his forces in the neighbourhood of Belgrade; and advanced towards Crotzka, where he was attacked by the Turks with such impetuosity and perseverance, that he was obliged to give ground, after a long and obstinate engagement, in which he lost above six thousand men. The Earl of Crawford, who served as a volunteer in the imperial army, signalized his courage in an extraordinary manner on this occasion, and received a dangerous wound, of which he never perfectly recovered. The Turks were afterwards worsted at Jabouka; nevertheless, their grand army invested Belgrade on the side of Servia, and carried on the operations

operations of the siege with extraordinary vigour. The emperor, dreading the loss of this place, seeing his finances exhausted, and his army considerably diminished, consented to a negotiation for peace, which was transacted under the mediation of the French ambassador at the Ottoman Porte. Count Newperg, as imperial plenipotentiary, signed the preliminaries on the 1st of September, 1739. They were ratified by the emperor, though he pretended to be dissatisfied with the articles; and declared that his minister had exceeded his powers. By this treaty the house of Austria ceded to the grand signor, Belgrade, Sabatz, Servia, Austrian Wallacia, the isle and fortress of Orsova, with the fort of St. Elizabeth: and the contracting powers agreed that the Danube and the Saave should serve as boundaries to the two empires. The emperor published a circular letter, addressed to his ministers at all the courts in Europe, blaming Count Wallis for the bad success of the last campaign, and disowning the negotiations of Count Newperg: nay, these two officers were actually disgraced, and confined in different castles. This, however, was no other than a sacrifice to the resentment of the czarina, who complained that the emperor had concluded a separate peace, contrary to his engagements with the Russian empire. Her general, Count Munich, had obtained a victory over the Turks at Choczim in Moldavia, and made himself master of that place, in which he found two hundred pieces of artillery: but the country was so ruined by the incursions of the Tartars, that the Muscovites could not subsist in it during the winter. The czarina, finding herself abandoned by the emperor, and unable to cope with the whole power of the Ottoman empire, took the first opportunity of putting an end to the war upon honourable terms. After a short negotiation, the conferences ended in a treaty, by which she was left in possession of Asoph, on condition that its fortification

should be demolished; and the ancient limits were re-established between the two empires.

A rupture between Great Britain and Spain was now become inevitable. The English squadron in the Mediterranean had already made prize of two rich caracca ships. The king had issued orders for augmenting his land-forces, and raising a body of marines: and a great number of ships of war were put in commission. Admiral Vernon had been sent to the West-Indies, to assume the command of the squadron in those seas; and to annoy the trade and settlements of the Spaniards. This gentleman had rendered himself considerable in the house of commons, by loudly condemning all the measures of the ministry, and bluntly speaking his sentiments, whatever they were, without respect of persons; and sometimes without any regard to decorum. He was counted a good officer, and this boisterous manner seemed to enhance his character. As he had once commanded a squadron in Jamaica, he was perfectly well acquainted with those seas; and in a debate upon the Spanish depredations, he chanced to affirm, that Porto Bello on the Spanish main might be easily taken: nay, he even undertook to reduce it with six ships only. This offer was echoed from the mouths of all the members in the opposition. Vernon was extolled as another Drake or Raleigh: he became the idol of a party, and his praise resounded from all corners of the kingdom. The minister, in order to appease the clamours of the people on this subject, sent him as commander in chief to the West-Indies. He was pleased with an opportunity to remove such a troublesome censor; and, perhaps, he was not without hope, that Vernon would disgrace himself and his party, by failing in the exploit he had undertaken. His catholic majesty having ordered all the British ships in his harbours to be seized and detained, the King of England would keep measures with him no longer,

longer, but denounced war against him on the 23d of October, 1739.

It has been well remarked, that in a nation like Great Britain, in which arts, arms, and commerce, are cultivated, war at certain intervals proves beneficial to the state; as it turns the current of wealth from the industrious to the enterprising. Thereby all orders of men find encouragement in their turns, and the nation becomes composed of individuals, some of whom have skill to acquire property, whilst others have courage to defend it. A long interval had now elapsed, since the treaty of Utrecht had restored peace to Europe; the short and unimportant war with Spain, and the commotions in the north, very little affected the essential interests of Great Britain, and were inconsiderable interruptions to its tranquillity. Now the scene changed, the dictatorial haughtiness of Spain and the commercial spirit of Britain were incompatible; negotiation was found inadequate to the purpose of adjusting differences, which arose from the jarring interests of two powerful kingdoms. In such cases each party confidently boasts the justice of its cause, and appeals to all the world for a confirmation of its assertions; but in the disputes of princes, fleets and armies are the best civilians, and can alone establish or confute the principles laid down in manifestoes and rescripts.

When the war with Spain broke out, the ministry was not composed of men distinguished for such talents as are best suited to direct the force of a great nation. In order to give full efficacy to the operations of war, it is necessary that the plans concerted in the cabinet should be dictated by that kind of wisdom which is formed by long experience, and if a languor prevails in bringing forward such designs, the public service is not likely to be promoted, however judiciously they might originate. Sir Charles Wager, indeed, presided at the admiralty-board, with great cre-

dit to himself and benefit to the nation; as his life had been passed in a continual course of active services, so his advanced years made him now the fittest man to direct what others should do, and the manner in which it should be done; but his authority was checked and controuled by the other great officers of state. Sir Robert Walpole and the Duke of Newcastle enjoyed all the power which the confidence of their sovereign could impart. The first was shrewd, sagacious, and indefatigable, whilst pursuing his pacific system. No minister, before this time, had ever so openly and uniformly struck at the root of all public virtue, by purchasing from the representatives of the people an implicit concurrence in his measures. His abilities as a financier, and even as a legislator, must be acknowledged to have been distinguished, but posterity ought to execrate the memory of that man, who, to gratify his insatiable thirst of power, made corruption constitutional in the nation. A minister, who in checking vice and profligacy knows how to render them subservient to the purposes of government, deserves commendation, but he that makes them the pillars on which his fabric of power rests, is no better than a Machiavel in politics. The object of those in power should be to promote good morals among the people; if, instead of attending to that, their influence takes a contrary direction, every one who views the transactions of the world with a philosophic eye, will not scruple to rank such statesman among the most pernicious of the human race. The Duke of Newcastle was a man of very circumscribed abilities, and neither versed in foreign nor domestic politics. His parliamentary interest was very great, and a zeal for the house of Hanover, as it had led him to render essential service to the protestant succession, so it had made him a minister in nature's despite.

At the time we are now speaking of, one hundred
and

and seven ships of war were actually in commission; twenty-six of which were in the West-Indies; twenty-two in the Mediterranean; fifty-five at home, and four on various cruises. The complement of men on-board this fleet was upwards of twenty-two thousand. For the better supply of seamen to serve in British ships of war, and also on-board of merchant ships and privateers, an act of parliament was passed, whereby free leave was given, during the continuance of the war, for vessels in the merchant's service, to be navigated by any number of foreign seamen, not exceeding three-fourths of the ship's company; and such foreign seamen serving on-board British ships, either of war, trade, or privateers, for the space of two years, were thereby to be afterwards deemed, in all respects, natural-born subjects, subject, however, to certain restrictions, whereby they were rendered incapable of holding places of trust or honour, civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, &c. And by this act, the king, his heirs, and successors, were empowered in any future war, by proclamation during such war, and no longer, to permit the like number of foreign seamen to serve in merchant ships or privateers, as well as in ships of war. By another act passed during the same session, all seamen at the age of fifty-five years or upwards, and all such as have not attained the age of eighteen years, and also all foreigners serving in British ships, are exempted from being impressed into his majesty's service: and persons of any age using the sea, were thereby also exempted from being impressed for the first two years of their being at sea; as were all sea-apprentices for the first three years of their apprenticeship.

Designs were now formed to annoy the Spaniards in their remote possessions; and as they drew all their wealth from those sources, every blow which might be struck there, would be most sensibly felt by that nation, and weaken their ability for maintaining the war.

war. For this end two squadrons were ordered to be got ready; one of which was to be commanded by Captain Anson, of the *Centurion*, a sixty-gun ship, the other by Captain Cornwall. The squadron under Mr. Anson was to take a regiment of foot on-board, with three independent companies, to be commanded by Colonel Bland, to set sail with all possible expedition, and not call at any place till they reached Java-head, in the East-Indies, and there stay no longer than to take in water, and afterwards proceed to Manilla, in Leuconia, one of the Philippine islands belonging to the Spaniards.—Captain Cornwall's squadron was to be of equal strength with the former, and to pass round Cape Horn, directly into the South-Sea, to range along that coast, and attempt the Spanish settlements there, if practicable. In its return it was to rendezvous at Manilla, there to join the squadron under Anson. Here they were to refresh their men, refit their ships, and receive orders.

Whilst those remote parts of the world were destined to suffer the horrors of war, the squadron under Admiral Vernon was to attack the Spaniards on the eastern side of the isthmus of Darien, whilst Commodore Cornwall, on the western side, was to endeavour the reduction of Panama. Should these conjunct expeditions prove successful, the treasures of the western world would be transferred to new professors; but a scheme of such magnitude was not likely to be carried into effect by such a ministry; accordingly, after some months had been employed in fitting out the respective squadrons, the design of sending out Captain Cornwall was totally laid aside, and the same end was proposed to be answered by the expedition to be undertaken by Captain Anson. But the impediments that were thrown in his way of his sailing, occasioned so much time to be lost, that the commander and all who served under him seemed to be men devoted to destruction, rather than (as was at first imagined) a favoured

voured band, destined to a service, by which the most essential advantages might be derived to their country, and immense wealth be obtained by each individual. It was not until the 28th of June, 1740, that the Duke of Newcastle, principal secretary of state, delivered to Commodore Anson his majesty's instructions, which were dated the 31st of January, 1739. These he had no sooner received, than he repaired to Spithead, in order to proceed immediately to sea; but he found his ships so badly manned, that another month was lost before he could be in any measure supplied. An order from the board of admiralty had been sent to Sir John Norris, directing him to provide the commodore with such seamen as he wanted. Sir John had sailed to the westward, and Admiral Balchin, who succeeded to the command at Spithead, sent only one hundred and seventy men instead of three hundred, and of these thirty-two were from the hospital and sick quarter, and ninety-eight were marines.

But the commodore's mortification did not end here; the regiment of foot and independent companies which had been proposed to embark with him, were now countermanded, and all the land-forces that were to be allowed were five hundred invalids, to be collected from the out pensioners of Chelsea college. As these out-pensioners consist of soldiers, who, from their age, wounds, or other infirmities, are incapable of service in marching regiments, Mr. Anson was greatly chagrined at having such a decrepid detachment allotted him; for he was fully persuaded that the greatest part of them would perish long before they arrived at the scene of action, since the delays he had already encountered necessarily confined his passage round Cape Horn to the most rigorous season of the year. Sir Charles Wager too joined in opinion with the commodore, that invalids were no ways proper for this service, and solicited strenuously to have
them

them exchanged. But he was told, that persons who were supposed to be better judges of foldiers than he or Mr. Anson thought them the properest men that could be employed on this occasion: and, upon this determination, they were ordered on-board the squadron. Instead of five hundred there came on-board no more than two hundred and fifty-nine; for all those who had limbs and strength to walk out of Portsmouth deserted, leaving behind them only such as were literally invalids, most of them being sixty years of age, and some of them upwards of seventy. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive a more moving scene than the embarkation of these unhappy veterans: they were themselves extremely averse to the service they were engaged in, and fully apprised of all the disasters they were afterwards exposed to; the apprehensions of which were strongly marked by the concern that appeared in their countenances, which was mixed with no small degree of indignation, to be thus hurried from their repose into a fatiguing employ, to which neither the strength of their bodies nor the vigour of their minds were any ways proportioned; and where, without seeing the face of an enemy, or in the least promoting the success of the enterprize, they would, in all probability, uselessly perish by lingering and painful diseases; and this too after they had spent the activity and strength of their youth in their country's service.

To supply the place of the two hundred and forty invalids which had deserted, as mentioned above, there were ordered on-board two hundred and ten marines, detached from different regiments. These were raw and undisciplined men; for they were just raised, and had scarcely any thing more of the foldier than their regimentals, none of them having been so far trained as to be permitted to fire. The last detachment of these marines came on-board the 8th of August, and on the 10th the squadron sailed from Spithead

Spithead to St. Helen's, there to wait for a wind to proceed on the expedition. And here we shall leave Mr. Anson to prosecute his long and perilous voyage, intending to give a general outline of it upon his return.

The expedition under Admiral Vernon is next to be spoken to. The ships he carried out with him to the West-Indies were the *Louisa*, Captain Waterhouse, of sixty guns and 420 men; *Worcester*, Captain Mayne, of seventy guns and 480 men; *Burford*, Captain Watson, of seventy guns and 500 men; *Strafford*, Captain Trevor, of sixty guns and 400 men; and *Norwich*, Captain Herbert, of fifty guns and 300 men. On the 23d of July, 1739, Admiral Vernon sailed with his Squadron from Spithead; he arrived at Antigua on the 29th of September, and on the 12th day following at Port Royal, in Jamaica, where, on the 28th he was joined by Commodore Brown, in the *Hampton-court*. Being now in sufficient force to attempt something against the Spanish settlements, means were used to gain intelligence which of them was most proper to attack. In the beginning of September, Captain Stapleton, in the *Sheerness*, had taken Don Pedro Ellstagaritta, captain to the Spanish admiral, and who remained a prisoner at Jamaica. Him our admiral proposed to exchange for the agents to the South-Sea company, whom the Spaniards had imprisoned. This exchange served as an excuse for sending in a flag of truce, by means of which the condition of the Spanish fortresses could be known.

Every means being used to procure certain intelligence of the enemy, it was at length known, that the galleons were destined to assemble at Carthagena, in order to proceed to Porto Bello, and open the annual fair at that place, the money having been brought from Panama some time before. This intelligence determined the admiral to make his attack upon

Porto Bello. He therefore procured the best pilots in the island for this expedition; and the governor of Jamaica, sensible of the great importance of the intended service, especially in distressing the enemy, gave him what supplies of soldiers he could spare, and Captain Newton, an experienced officer, to command them. In the mean time three ships sent to the coast of the Caraccas arrived in port without effecting any thing, having had bad pilots, the ground being foul, the weather tempestuous, and the Lagaira shore so strongly fortified, as to render it, with the small force they had with them, impracticable; only Captain Knowles took a ship, on-board of which were seventy-four thousand pieces of eight, and cloathing for the garrison of St. Augustine.

Every thing being now got ready for sailing, the admiral left instructions for the Windsor, then on a cruise, and the Diamond, which was cleaning, to follow him with all convenient speed, in case of his meeting with a superior force; he appointed a convoy for the homeward-bound trade, and stationed a ship to windward, in order to protect that coming from England. The admiral sailed on the 5th of November with the five ships which he brought from England, to which the Hampton-court was added. On the 20th in the evening, he came within sight of Porto Bello, having been so long delayed on his passage by contrary winds. There being but little wind that evening, though a very great swell, he anchored for the night six leagues off the shore, being apprehensive of driving to the eastward of the harbour. And here it may be proper, before we enter upon the attack, to give some account of the place.

The town stands on the north side of the isthmus of Darien, which running from east to west, betwixt the North and South Seas, joins the two continents of North and South America. It is seventy miles from Panama, which lies on the south side of the
isthmus.

isthmus. Porto Bello has a convenient bay about a mile deep, with good anchorage and shelter for ships; it is near half a mile broad at the mouth of the harbour. At the entrance of the north side of the bay, close by a steep rock, stood a strong castle called the Iron castle, mounting seventy-eight great guns, with a battery beneath, parallel with the water, of twenty-two guns, the castle and fort having a garrison of three hundred men. On the opposite side of the bay, about a mile farther up, on an eminence, stood castle Gloria, consisting of two regular bastions towards the sea, mounting ninety guns, with a curtain between of twenty-two guns, besides a line of eight guns pointing to the mouth of the harbour, the whole defended by four hundred men. A little above this castle, near the other end of the town, on a point running into the bay, stood fort St. Jeronimo, a sort of quadrangular redoubt, strongly built, well planted with cannon, and properly defended. Under the cannon of Gloria castle and fort St. Jeronimo, all the ships in the harbour rode at anchor; and this defence, with the guns on the Iron castle, rendered the entrance of the harbour extremely difficult. At the bottom of the harbour lies the town of Porto Bello, built along the shore in the shape of a half moon; it is long and narrow, with two main streets besides that run across, and a small parade in the middle of the town, surrounded with pretty good dwellings; the whole number of houses amounts to about five hundred, two churches, a treasury, custom-house, and an exchange. The east side is low and swampy, and the sea at low water leaves the shore within the harbour a great way bare from the houses. The bottom here, being a blackish filthy mud, is very fetid, and occasions noxious vapours by reason of the heat of the climate, which lies in the tenth degree of north latitude: hence also it is but thin of inhabitants, except at the time of the fair, which alone raises the reputation of the place,

it being the market through which is an annual circulation of all the wealth of Peru, and the manufactures of Europe. It was taken by the Buccaneers in 1688, but afterwards being re-fortified more strongly, it had for some time been reckoned impregnable; so that it was formerly given out that a squadron of ships and at least eight thousand men could not take it, when the British ships lay rotting, and its sailors dying away at the Bastimentos: though Admiral Vernon had asserted in the house of commons, that he would take it with "only six ships of war."

Commodore Brown in the Hampton-court led the attack with great bravery; he was well supported by Captain Herbert in the Norwich, and Captain Mayne in the Worcester. Upwards of four hundred shot were fired at the Iron fort. The admiral perceived that the Spaniards had quitted several parts of the fort; whereupon he made signal for the boats, in which were about forty sailors, with a company of marines and their officers, to land with all imaginable expedition, whilst he was coming up to the fort to batter it. The admiral, luffing up as near the fort as he conveniently could, was saluted with a whole volley, every shot of which almost took place; one beat away the stern of his barge, another shivered a large gun on his upper deck, a third went through his fore-top mast, and a fourth passing through the awnings, within a few inches of the mainmast, beat down the barricado of the quarter-deck not far from where the admiral stood, killed three men, and wounded five more, the Spaniards all this time vainly imagining that they could sink the whole squadron; yet this was so far from intimidating our sailors, that they returned the salute so effectually, that, though the enemy discharged a few more shot, they did us afterwards no considerable damage: for the fire of the admiral's small arms scoured the lower batteries of the Spaniards, driving them from thence where they could do
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most execution; and by this means also our men were secured in landing; which, as the Spaniards afterwards owned, was the principal occasion of their abandoning their lower batteries; the small shot from the ships which had before passed them not at all reaching, though their cannon had beat down some of the upper part of the fort. As the boats came near the admiral, he called out to them to land directly under the walls of the fort, in the front of their lower batteries, though no breach had been made. Yet this happily answered expectation; for they all landed safe except two soldiers who were killed by the small arms from the castle. Upon this some seamen scaling the walls, which they chiefly performed by one man setting himself close under an embrasure, whilst another climbed upon his shoulders, they entered under the mouth of a great gun, which struck such a general panic into the Spaniards, that the officers and men at the lower battery fled farther up into the fort, after they had first hung out a white flag for capitulating, which the admiral answered with another; but such was the eagerness of his own men, and those on-board the *Strafford* which followed him, that it was a good while before he could stop them from firing.

In the mean time the seamen who had climbed up the walls of the lower battery, having first struck the colours, afterwards drew up the soldiers, upon which the Spaniards who had retreated into the castle surrendered at discretion; of these only five officers and thirty-five men remained out of three hundred, the rest having been killed, wounded, or made their escape. After finding all their efforts of resistance prove ineffectual, they shut themselves up in a strong lodgement; but, upon our men firing a gun through the door, they soon opened it and begged for quarter.

The ships, which had gone in before the admiral, fell so far to leeward, that they were not within sight
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of the Gloria castle; but, the admiral's own ship lying open to it, they kept firing one of their largest guns at him till night, but did little or no execution, and all the damage he received was, one shot which went through the head of his fore-top-mast just above the rigging. The admiral, finding that the Spaniards continued their fire, tried some of his lower tier, which being new guns answered to admiration, carrying over Gloria castle into the town, none of the shot falling short; one shot went through the governor's house, some through several other houses, and one sunk a sloop under the castle.

This successful beginning was attended with the loss only of three men killed, besides five more wounded in the admiral's own ship, the like number of killed and wounded on-board the Worcester, and one man had both legs shot off on-board the Hampton-court: none were killed or wounded in the rest of the squadron.

The next morning, being the 22d of November, the admiral went on-board the Hampton-court, Commodore Brown, in order to call a council of war, and give the necessary directions for warping the ships up in the night to attack Gloria castle, as it would have been impracticable to attempt it in the day-time. But in this he was prevented by the enemy's hoisting a white flag, and sending a boat with a flag of truce to the admiral, and the conditions signed on which they desired to capitulate, viz. That the governor would deliver up all the fortifications, provided they might be allowed to march out with the honours of war, have an indemnity for themselves, the town, and the inhabitants, and be permitted to keep all the ships in the harbour. This last article could not by any means be admitted; the admiral being resolved to have the ships which had done the English merchants all the injuries they complained of on these coasts. Accordingly he drew up the articles on which he was willing

to capitulate with the Spaniards, and sent them back to the governor, allowing him only a few hours to take his resolution. But, within the time limited, the conditions offered were accepted.

Before night the admiral sent Captain Newton, who commanded the detachment of soldiers from Jamaica, with about one hundred and twenty soldiers, who took possession of Gloria castle and Jeronimo fort, being the two remaining fortresses untaken which defended the harbour; the former lying below the town, and the other above it.

In the harbour were two Spanish men of war of twenty guns each, together with a snow, the crews of which, upon seeing the regular and bold attack made on the Iron fort, and despairing of being able to defend themselves, fell to plundering the town in the night of the 21st, and committed great outrages on the inhabitants.

From the several fortresses the admiral took on-board his squadron, forty pieces of brass cannon, ten field-pieces, four mortars, and eighteen patteraroes, all of the same metal, and rendered unserviceable above eighty iron cannon, by knocking off their trunnions and spiking them up; he also took on-board all their shot and ammunition, except one hundred and twenty-two barrels of powder, which he expended in springing of mines, by which all the fortifications of the town were blown up and entirely demolished, and the harbour left open and defenceless. Ten thousand dollars, which had arrived for paying the Spanish troops at Porto Bello, falling into the admiral's hands, he distributed them among the forces for their encouragement.

Strict attention was given by the admiral to prevent the inhabitants suffering in their persons or effects: orders were delivered out to all the captains of the squadron, to suffer no boats to go ashore, but with an officer, for whose conduct they would be responsible. As the most effectual means of preventing outrages,
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punishment was not only denounced against offenders; but it was declared, that such should be deprived of their share of the several captures, which were secured, as a reward for their gallant behaviour.

On the 27th, the admiral was joined by the Diamond, Captain Knowles; and on the 29th, by the Windsor, Captain Berkley, and the Anglesea, Captain Reddish. From the papers of Captain Berkley, this account is principally taken.

The principal engineer in directing the mines was Captain Knowles of the Diamond, assisted by Captain Boscawen, (who had desired to serve in this expedition as a volunteer, his own ship, the Shoreham, being unfit for sea;) and by Mr. Barnes, purser of the Worcester, who having been an officer in the army, was very useful on this occasion. Commodore Brown had the chief direction of all that was to be done at Gloria castle and St. Jeronimo fort; and Captain Watson, of the admiral's own ship the Burford, took care of the execution of all that was to be done at the Iron fort, where the walls of the lower battery, consisting of twenty-two guns, were nine feet thick, and of a hard stone cemented with fine mortar, that it was remarkably difficult to make any impression in it for forming a mine.

On the 6th of December, Captain Stapleton returned from his cruise off Carthagena, having taken two vessels laden with stores and provisions going to that place.

During Admiral Vernon's stay at Porto Bello, he sent a letter to the president of Panama, demanding the releasement of the factors and servants belonging to the South-Sea company, who were confined at that place, together with the restitution of their own personal effects, as well as those of the aforesaid company. In consequence of this message, the president sent an officer with Mr. Humphrys and Dr. Wright, factors, and also with the servants of the company, who were delivered to the admiral at Porto Bello.

Thus

Thus the fortifications of that place were demolished. And, though the admiral was not able to push his conquests farther up the country, yet the national advantage arising from what he had already done was very considerable, particularly as the traders of Jamaica had now a fair opportunity of opening an extensive commerce with the Spaniards, who were fond of clandestinely conveying their money from Panama over the isthmus.

The principal point now remaining was, to distress the galleons in Carthagena, by preventing them from receiving any supplies of naval stores and provisions, which they greatly wanted; the admiral, therefore, on the 11th December, ordered Captain Knowles, in the *Diamond*, to accompany the squadron till their arrival off Carthagena, and then to cruise before that port, in order to intercept any supplies, and observe the motions of the galleons.

On the 13th of December, the admiral sailed, with his squadron, from Porto Bello, on his return to Jamaica; and having reason to conclude, from intelligence given him by Captain Reddish, that the Ferrol squadron might be, by that time, in those seas, on the 15th the admiral gave orders to all the captains, not on any account to hazard losing company with the flag; and that in case of separation, the first place of general rendezvous for twenty-four hours, should be under Point Cano; but, not seeing any thing of the admiral in that time, they were to make the best of their way for the next place of general rendezvous, namely, Port Royal. The admiral being off Carthagena, on the 28th, dispatched for England Captain Renton, in the Spanish snow called the *Triumph*, with the news of his success at Porto Bello; which was no sooner made public, than bonfires blazed in every street, and the houses were illuminated: the lords and commons joined in an address of congratulation upon

this success of his majesty's arms. The commons gratified every wish of the crown in voting supplies: thirty-five thousand seamen were ordered for the service of the ensuing year, besides eight-and-twenty thousand land-forces, and five thousand marines. They voted the subsidy to the King of Denmark; and they empowered their sovereign to defray certain extraordinary expences not specified in the estimates. To answer these uncommon grants, they imposed a land-tax of four shillings in the pound; and enabled his majesty to deduct 120,000*l.* from the sinking-fund; in a word, the expence of the war, during the course of the ensuing year, amounted to about four millions. The session was closed on the 29th of April, when the king thanked the commons for the supplies they had so liberally granted, and recommended union and moderation to both houses.

During the greatest part of this winter, the poor had been grievously afflicted in consequence of a severe frost, which began at Christmas, and continued to the latter end of February. The river Thames was covered with such a crust of ice, that a multitude of people dwelled upon it in tents, and a great number of booths were erected for the entertainment of the populace. The navigation was entirely stopped: the watermen and fishermen were disabled from earning a livelihood: the fruits of the earth were destroyed by the cold, which was so extreme, that many persons were chilled to death; and this calamity was the more deeply felt, as the poor could not afford to supply themselves with coals and fuel, which were advanced in price in proportion to the severity and continuance of the frost. The lower class of labourers, who worked in the open air, were now deprived of all means of subsistence: many kinds of manufacture were laid aside, because it was found impossible to carry them on. The price of all sorts
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of provision rose almost to a dearth: even water was sold in the streets of London. In this season of distress, many wretched families must have perished by cold and hunger, had not those of opulent fortunes been inspired with a remarkable spirit of compassion and humanity. Nothing can more redound to the honour of the English nation, than did those instances of benevolence and well conducted charity which were then exhibited. The liberal hand was not only opened to the professed beggar, and the poor that owned their distress; but uncommon pains were taken to find out and relieve those more unhappy objects, who from motives of false pride, or ingenuous shame, endeavoured to conceal their misery. These were assisted almost in their own despite. The solitary habitations of the widow, the fatherless, and the unfortunate, were visited by the beneficent, who felt for the woes of their fellow-creatures; and, to such as refused to receive a portion of the public charity, the necessaries of life were privately conveyed, in such a manner as could least shock the delicacy of their dispositions.

In the beginning of May, the King of Great Britain set out for Hanover, after having appointed a regency, and concerted vigorous measures for distressing the enemy. In a few days after his departure, the spousals of the Princess Mary were celebrated by proxy, the Duke of Cumberland representing the Prince of Hesse, and in June the princess embarked for the continent. This month was likewise marked by the death of his Prussian majesty, a prince by no means remarkable for great or amiable qualities. He was succeeded on the throne by Frederic his eldest son, the late king of that realm, who so eminently distinguished himself as a warrior and legislator. In August, the King of Great Britain concluded a treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse, who engaged to furnish

him with a body of six thousand men for four years, in consideration of an annual subsidy of two hundred and fifty thousand crowns.

The force of the British arms was chiefly directed against the West-India settlements of the Spaniards, and the reduction of Porto Bello was considered only as an earnest of more decisive success in that quarter of the world. Intelligence being received, that a strong squadron of Spanish ships of war waited at Ferrol for orders to sail to their American settlements, Sir John Norris sailed with a powerful fleet from Spithead, to dispute their voyage; and the Duke of Cumberland served in person as a volunteer in this expedition: but, after divers fruitless efforts, he was, by contrary winds, obliged to lie inactive for the greatest part of the summer in Torbay; and, upon advice that the French and Spanish squadrons had sailed to the West-Indies in conjunction, the design against Ferrol was wholly laid aside. But the hopes of the nation centered chiefly in a formidable armament designed for the northern coast of New Spain, and his catholic majesty's other settlements on that side of the Atlantic. Commissions had been issued for raising a regiment of four battalions in the English colonies of North America, that they might be transported to Jamaica, and join the forces from England. These, consisting of the marines, and detachments from some old regiments, were embarked in October at the Isle of Wight, under the command of Lord Cathcart, a nobleman of approved honour and great experience in the art of war; and they sailed under convoy of Sir Chaloner Ogle, with a fleet of seven-and-twenty ships of the line, besides frigates, fireships, bomb-ketches, and tenders. They were likewise furnished with hospital-ships, and store-ships, laden with provision, ammunition, all sorts of warlike implements, and every kind of convenience. Never was an armament more completely equipped; and never had the nation more reason to hope for extraordinary success.

On the 20th of October, Charles VI. Emperor of Germany, the last prince of the house of Austria, died at Vienna, and was succeeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldest daughter, the Archduchess Maria Theresa, married to the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Though this princess succeeded as Queen of Hungary, by virtue of the pragmatic sanction guaranteed by all the powers in Europe, her succession produced such contests as kindled a cruel war in the empire. The young King of Prussia was no sooner informed of the emperor's death, than he entered Silesia at the head of twenty thousand men; seized certain fiefs to which his family laid claim; and published a manifesto, declaring that he had no intention to contravene the pragmatic sanction. The Elector of Bavaria refused to acknowledge the archduchess as Queen of Hungary and Bohemia; alleging, that he himself had pretensions to those countries, as the descendant of the Emperor Ferdinand I. who was head of the German branch of the house of Austria. Charles VI. was survived but a few days by his ally, the czarina Anne Iwanowna, who died in the forty-fifth year of her age, after having bequeathed her crown to Iwan, or John, the infant son of her niece, the Princess Anne of Mecklenbourg, who had been married to Anthony Ulrick, Duke of Brunswick Lunenburg Bevern. She appointed the Duke of Courland regent of the empire, and even guardian of the young czar, though his own parents were alive: but this disposition was not long maintained.

Admiral Vernon did not remain long inactive after his return to Jamaica from his expedition against Porto Bello. He had been joined by the Greenwich man of war, with fireships, bomb-vessels, and store-ships. The Burford, on-board of which the admiral had hoisted his flag at the taking of Porto Bello, having run upon a rock off Point Canoa, was found so leaky when she came into Port Royal, that she was obliged

obliged to be careened before she could again put to sea; the admiral therefore hoisted his flag on-board the *Strafford*, and proceeded to sea the latter end of February, having with him the *Strafford*, *Princess Louisa*, *Windsor*, *Greenwich*, and *Norwich*. The *Burford* was ordered to follow as soon as she could be got ready, as was also the *Torrington*. The admiral's design was to make an attack upon Carthagena.

This place is rendered important by its harbour, which is one of the best that is known. It is two leagues in extent, and has a deep and excellent bottom. There the waters are less agitated than on the calmest rivers. At the time we are speaking of, there was no passage into this harbour but by the canal of *Bocca Chica*, which was so narrow, that only one vessel could pass without being exposed to the cross batteries of forts erected on both sides.

The admiral proceeded on his way with a favourable wind, and on the 1st of March he got sight of the high land of *St. Martha*, on the Spanish main, and after ordering Captain *Windham*, in the *Greenwich*, to ply up in the night and lie to windward of the port, for intercepting whatever might be going in there, the admiral bore away with an easy sail for Carthagena.

On the 3d at noon he was joined by the *Falmouth*, Captain *Douglas*, and that evening he anchored before the town with his squadron, in nine fathom water, in the open bay called *Playa Grande*; and on the 6th he ordered in all the bomb-ketches, with the small ships and tenders for covering and assisting them, and continued bombarding till nine in the morning. The squadron received no damage from the town; but our shells fell there with pretty good success, particularly into the principal church, the Jesuit's college, and the custom house, demolishing several houses between them; and a shell which fell upon the south bastion silenced a battery of ten guns there for a long time.

The inhabitants were all this time in the utmost consternation;

ternation; but our squadron was too inconsiderable to attempt any thing further; and accordingly the admiral, after giving orders to the several captains, that in case of separation, after leaving their present station off Carthagena, they should make the best of their way to the next general rendezvous, either in the harbour of Porto Bello, or off the mouth of the river Chagre in the bay, to the eastward of it, weighed on the 9th, and made sail with his squadron.

After making the signal for the line of battle, he coasted along the shore towards Bocca Chica, observing at that time the particulars for regulating any future descent that might be intended against Carthagena, while the Spaniards fired at him from the three small castles without Bocca Chica, though none of their shot reached him.

The admiral having received intelligence, that Don Joseph de Herrera in the *Vizara*, a Spanish man of war, had received orders from Don Blas de Lefo, governor of Carthagena, to come and join him at that place, together with the *St. Juan*, another Spanish man of war, and a snow; he on the 9th ordered Captain Berkley in the *Windfor*, with the *Greenwich*, Captain Wyndham, to cruise off the port of Carthagena for twenty days, to intercept, take, or destroy, the said men of war, but more especially to watch the motions of the galleons. After this the admiral made sail for Porto Bello, in order to repair the damage which the small craft had received in the late expedition.

On the 13th, being joined by Captain Knowles in the *Diamond*, the admiral ordered him to go on-board the *Success* fireship, and, accompanied with the brig-tender, to get off the mouth of the Chagre, and there make all proper observations, how the fort at the mouth of that river might be attacked, whether by bombardment or cannonading; and particularly to inform himself of the soundings and depth of water thereabouts,

abouts, to be certain how near any of the ships could approach, and to observe what convenient landing places might be near, and return to the admiral as soon as he could, who would be making an easy sail after him, and lie off the said river till he should receive information on which he was to form his future plan of operations.

Next day the admiral anchored with his squadron in Porto Bello harbour, and on the 18th detached the Eleanor with another sloop to cruise off the mouth of the Chagre for seven days, or till the squadron should appear off that river, in order to prevent the Spanish privateer sloops from putting to sea from thence, and to intercept any thing that might be coming thither. The Strafford and Norwich, with all the small vessels, being watered, the admiral got out to sea on the 22d, being the better enabled to undertake the expedition, as, during his stay at Porto Bello, he had got an exact draught of all the coast from Porto Bello to Chagre, and of the mouth of that river, and the shoal before it, from Lowther the pirate, who, by this piece of service to his country, took the opportunity of obtaining his pardon, and returning to England: he at the same time had left orders with the Louisa and Falmouth to hasten their watering, and then follow him. But, an accident in the admiral's fore-top-sail yard retarding his progress, he ordered Captain Herbert, in the Norwich, to make all the sail he could, and enter the harbour of Chagre before him, with the bomb-ketches, and all the fireships and tenders under his command, with Captain Knowles as engineer; to place the bomb-sloops in order for playing on the castle of St. Lorenzo, at the mouth of the river, and to cover them with his own and the other ships then there.

The same day, by three in the afternoon, Captain Knowles got to anchor, and began bombarding and cannonading that evening. By ten at night the admiral got also to an anchor with his own ship the Strafford,

ford, as did the Falmouth and Princess Louisa, which followed him the same night. They continued bombarding, and three ships kept firing leisurely the guns of their lower tier till Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a flag of truce from the fort, which the admiral answered from his own ship. Then, stopping any farther execution as soon as possible, he sent Captain Knowles ashore, who soon returned with Don Juan Carlos Gutierrez de Ranettas, governor of the fort, to whom the admiral granted a capitulation, the substance of which was, that, upon his Britannic majesty's troops being put into immediate possession of fort St. Lorenzo, the guarda-costa sloops, and the King of Spain's custom-house, being also delivered up, the governor, with his garrison, might march where they pleased, and the town of Chagre be preserved in all their immunities.

The capitulation being thus settled and agreed to, the admiral sent the governor ashore with Captain Knowles, appointing the latter governor of the castle for his Britannic majesty, and a garrison with him of five lieutenants and one hundred and twenty men, with all the boats of the fleet to land them: by three o'clock that afternoon, Captain Knowles entered the fort with his garrison. The same evening Knowles placed a guard upon the custom-house, lying on the opposite side of the river Chagre; and the admiral came on-shore himself by day-break next morning, to give the necessary orders; when, finding the custom-house full of goods for loading the galleons, such as guayaquil cacao, jesuit's bark, and Spanish wool, he gave immediate orders for their being shipped off. The number of serons and bags of goods amounted to forty-three hundred. The two guarda-costa sloops in the river, being all that were left in those parts, were sunk just above the custom-house, after their decks were first broken up, and otherwise rendered useless. The custom-house, being entirely cleared by Friday

the 28th, was filled with combustible matter and set on fire that evening, which burnt with great fierceness all that night. On the 29th in the morning, eleven brass cannon, and as many patteraroes of the same metal, together with the English garrison, being embarked, mines were sprung under the lower bastion which entirely demolished it; then two more were sprung to blow up some of the upper parts of the works; and afterwards all the inner buildings of the castle were set on fire and kept burning all the night of the 29th. On the 30th, Vernon put to sea with his squadron; and on the 1st of April, in the evening, he got to the mouth of the harbour of Porto Bello, where he was joined by the Windsor and Greenwich, just arrived from their cruise off Carthage: and on the 2d he was also joined by the Burford. Admiral Vernon with the chief of his squadron soon after returned to Jamaica, and on the 3d of May he arrived safe at Port Royal.

In the town and fort of Chagre were found two thousand eight hundred and ninety-two serons, two butts, and five hogshheads, of cocoa; one thousand two hundred and forty serons, four butts, four hogshheads, and twelve puncheons, of jesuit's bark, and three hundred and twenty-seven bales of Viconia wool; the whole valued at 70,000*l.* besides plate and other effects to a considerable amount; so that the officers and seamen were handsomely rewarded for reducing the castle. About the beginning of June, Admiral Vernon received advice by a packet, sent express to him from Lord Tyrawley, the British minister at Lisbon, that the Spanish squadron was sailed from Cadiz, and supposed to be designed for the West-Indies; whereupon the admiral sailed out immediately with his squadron upon a cruise to the windward, hoping to have the good fortune to meet with them in their passage; but after cruising for some days, and receiving no information concerning them, he returned to Jamaica.

The

The abatement of this commander's zeal first appeared in the shortness of this cruise.

Admiral Vernon now became the idol of the people, being looked upon as another Drake or Ruffel in England, a second Raleigh or Blake in America, and a high veneration was paid to his name among all ranks and conditions of men in the British dominions. His majesty was so fully persuaded of the admiral's zeal for his service, and his good conduct in taking such measures as would most effectually conduce thereto, that he left it entirely to his discretion to act against the Spaniards in such manner and in such places as should appear to him best for answering the ends proposed by his majesty's former orders. His majesty also gave particular commands to the Duke of Newcastle, to assure the admiral of his entire approbation of his conduct in the late expedition, and the humanity with which he treated the inhabitants after the reduction of Porto Bello.

The *Princessa*, a Spanish man of war, having sixty-eight guns and six hundred men, happened to fall in with the *Lenox*, on-board of which was Commodore Maine, the *Kent*, Captain Durell, and the *Orford*, Lord Augustus Fitzroy. The Spanish ship was high built, and thereby possessed the advantage of being able to fire her lower tier of guns in bad weather. She was larger than our first-rates, her guns of an uncommon size, and most of them brass. She was esteemed one of the finest vessels in the navy of Spain. The action began about eleven in the morning, and was maintained with great firmness, though with a cool and deliberate valour, until a quarter after five in the afternoon, when the Spanish captain struck to Lord Augustus Fitzroy. When she was brought into Portsmouth, her strength, and the appearance of the slaughter which had been made among her crew, testified the obstinacy of the combat. Captain Durell had one of his hands shot away in the action. She was taken off Cape Finisterre.

The king having returned to England from his German dominions, the session of parliament was opened in November, 1740. His majesty assured them, on this occasion, that he was determined to prosecute the war vigorously, even though France should espouse the cause of Spain, as her late conduct seemed to favour this supposition. He took notice of the emperor's death, as an event which in all likelihood would open a new scene of affairs in Europe: he therefore recommended to their consideration the necessary supplies for putting the nation in such a posture that it should have nothing to fear from any emergency.

A very hot contest arose from a bill which the ministry brought in under the specious title of, A bill for the encouragement and increase of seamen, and for the better and speedier manning his majesty's fleet. This was a revival of an oppressive scheme which had been rejected in the former session; a scheme by which the justices of the peace were empowered to issue warrants to constables and headboroughs, to search by day or night for such sea-faring men as should conceal themselves within their respective jurisdictions. These searchers were vested with authority to force open doors, in case of resistance; and encouraged to this violence by a reward for every seaman they should discover; while the unhappy wretches so discovered were dragged into the service, and their names entered in a register to be kept at the navy or the admiralty-office. Such a plan of tyranny did not pass uncensured. Every exceptionable clause produced a warm debate, in which Sir John Barnard, Mr. Pulteney, Mr. Sandys, Lord Gage, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Lyttelton, signalized themselves nobly in defending the liberties of their fellow subjects. Mr. Pitt having expressed a laudable indignation at such a large stride towards despotic power, in justification of which nothing could be urged but the plea of
"necessity,

necessity, Mr. H. Walpole thought proper to attack him with some personal sarcasms. He reflected upon his youth; and observed that the discovery of truth was very little promoted by pompous diction and theatrical emotion. These insinuations exposed him to a severe reply: Mr. Pitt, standing up again, said, "He would not undertake to determine whether youth could be justly imputed to any man as a reproach; but he affirmed, that the wretch, who after having seen the consequences of repeated errors, continues still to blunder, and whose age has only added obstinacy to stupidity, is surely the object of either abhorrence or contempt, and deserves not that his grey head should secure him from insults: much more is he to be abhorred, who, as he has advanced in age, has receded from virtue, and becomes more wicked with less temptation; who prostitutes himself for money which he cannot enjoy; and spends the remains of his life in the ruin of his country."—Petitions were presented from the city of London, and county of Gloucester, against the bill, as detrimental to the trade and navigation of the kingdom, by discouraging rather than encouraging sailors, and destructive to the liberties of the subjects: but they were both rejected as insults upon the house of commons. After very long debates, maintained on both sides with extraordinary ardour and emotion, the severe clauses were dropped, and the bill passed with amendments.

But the most remarkable incident of this session was an open and personal attack upon the minister, who was become extremely unpopular all over the kingdom. The people were now, more than ever, sensible of the grievous taxes under which they groaned; and saw their burthens daily increasing. No effectual attempt had as yet been made to annoy the enemy. Expensive squadrons had been equipped; had made excursions, and returned without striking a blow. The Spanish fleet had sailed first from Cadiz, and

and then from Ferrol, without any interruption from Admiral Haddock, who commanded the British squadron in the Mediterranean, and who was supposed to be restricted by the instructions he had received from the ministry, though in fact his want of success was owing to accident. Admiral Vernon had written from the West-Indies to his private friends, that he was neglected, and in danger of being sacrificed. Notwithstanding the numerous navy which the nation maintained, the Spanish privateers made prize of the British merchant ships with impunity. In violation of treaties, and in contempt of that intimate connection which had been so long cultivated between the French and English ministry, the King of France had ordered the harbour and fortifications of Dunkirk to be repaired: his fleet had sailed to the West-Indies, in conjunction with that of Spain; and the merchants of England began to tremble for Jamaica: finally, commerce was in a manner suspended, by the practice of pressing sailors into the service, and by the embargo which had been laid upon ships, in all the ports of Great Britain and Ireland. These causes of popular discontent, added to other complaints which had been so long repeated against the minister, exaggerated and inculcated by his enemies with unwearied industry, at length produced a motion for an address to the king, that he would be pleased to remove Sir Robert Walpole from his presence and councils for ever. Mr. Pelham undertook to defend or excuse all the measures which others had condemned: and acquitted himself as a warm friend and unshaken adherent. Against this champion Sir John Barnard entered the lists, and was sustained by Mr. Pulteney, who, with equal spirit and precision, pointed out and exposed all the material errors and mal-practices of the administration. Sir Robert Walpole spoke with great temper and deliberation in behalf of himself. With respect to the article of bribery and corruption, he said,

“ if

“ if any one instance had been mentioned; if it had been shewn that he ever offered a reward to any member of either house, or ever threatened to deprive any member of his office or employment, in order to influence his voting in parliament; there might have been some ground for his charge: but when it was so generally laid, he did not know what he could say to it, unless to deny it as generally and as positively as it had been asserted.”—Such a declaration as this, in the hearing of so many persons, who not only knew, but subsisted by his wages of corruption, was a strong proof of the minister’s being dead to all sense of shame, and all regard to veracity. The debate was protracted by the court members till three o’clock in the morning, when, about sixty of the opposite party having retired, the motion was rejected by a considerable majority.

The commons voted forty thousand seamen for the service of the ensuing year, and about thirty thousand men for the establishment of land-forces. They provided for the subsidies granted to the King of Denmark and the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel; and took every step which was suggested for the ease and the convenience of the government.

On the 18th of March, 1741, an address was presented to his majesty by both houses of parliament, congratulating him on Admiral Vernon’s success, by entering the port and taking the town of Porto Bello, and demolishing all the forts and castles belonging thereto, “ with six ships of war only;” and representing, that it could not fail of giving the utmost joy to all his majesty’s subjects, since it afforded the most reasonable hopes that it might highly contribute to the obtaining real and effectual security of those just rights of navigation and commerce belonging to his majesty’s subjects, for the preservation of which his majesty had entered into that necessary war. An address was also presented to his majesty by the city of London

don on the same occasion. The parliament voted, that the thanks of both houses should be transmitted to the admiral for his eminent services. And the citizens of London, as a farther mark of distinction, voted him the freedom of the city, to be presented to him in a gold box.

In the beginning of April, the king, repairing to the house of peers, passed some acts that were ready for the royal assent. Then, in his speech to both houses, he gave them to understand, that the Queen of Hungary had made a requisition of the twelve thousand men stipulated by the treaty; and that he had ordered the subsidy-troops of Denmark and Hesse Cassel to be in readiness to march to her assistance. He observed, that in this complicated and uncertain state of affairs, many incidents might arise, and render it necessary for him to incur extraordinary expences for maintaining the pragmatic sanction, at a time when he could not possibly have recourse to the advice and assistance of his parliament. He, therefore, demanded of the commons such a supply as might be requisite for these ends; and promised to manage it with all possible frugality. The lower house, in their address, approved of all his measures; and resolved, that 300,000*l.* should be granted to his majesty, to enable him effectually to support the Queen of Hungary. Towards the expence of this year, a million was deducted from the sinking-fund: and the land-tax continued at four shillings in the pound. The preparations for this war had already cost five millions. The session was closed on the 25th day of April, when the king took his leave of this parliament, with warm expressions of tenderness and satisfaction. Henry Bromley, Stephen Fox, and John Howe, three members of the lower house, who had signalized themselves in defence of the minister, were now ennobled, and created Barons of Montford, Ilchester, and Chedworth. A camp was formed near Colchester;

chester; and the king, having appointed a regency, set out in May for his German dominions.

It will now be necessary to follow Sir Chaloner Ogle, with his fleet, to the West-Indies. Soon after he had cleared the channel, he was overtaken by a tempest, which dispersed his fleet; and as he had the outward-bound merchantmen under his convoy, the whole amounted to one hundred and seventy sail: but this disaster did not prevent him from prosecuting his voyage without putting into port. The 19th of December he arrived at the neutral Carribbean island of Dominica, where Lord Cathcart died of a dysentery the day after their arrival. His lordship had been indefatigable to procure every possible information respecting the situation and strength of the enemy in the West-Indies, and was a man every way qualified to command on the service upon which he was sent. His courage was unquestionable, and this quality was properly tempered with prudent caution: he was greatly beloved both by the officers and the soldiers for his humanity, generosity, and affability; his death was therefore prophetically deemed a loss to his country, especially as it was followed by the death of General Spotswood in Virginia, whose experience in military affairs would have contributed much to the success of our designs in the West-Indies. The loss of Lord Cathcart was yet more severely felt, as the command of the land-forces devolved upon General Wentworth, whose chief merit consisted in being in favour with those in power.

On the 27th of December, Admiral Ogle arrived at St. Christopher's, the place of rendezvous appointed for the fleet: here he found many of the transports and men of war that had been separated during the storm; the next day he sailed with his whole force for Jamaica. In sailing along the island of St. Domingo, four large ships were discovered under sail; the admiral hereupon detached an equal number from his

squadron to give them chase, whilst he kept on his course. Lord Augustus Fitzroy, in the Orford, having the command of this detachment, threw out signals for the ships which he was following to bring to, which they refusing to comply with, he saluted them with a broadside, which was returned, and a sharp action followed, which was maintained during the night. In the morning the strange ships hoisted their colours, and appeared to be part of the French squadron which had sailed from Europe under the command of the Marquis d'Antin, with orders to assist the Spanish admiral de Torres, in attacking and distressing the English ships and colonies.* As war had not yet been declared between France and England, no sooner was the French flag displayed, than hostilities ceased; the English and French commanders behaved with great politeness to each other, mutually exchanged apologies for their mistake, and parted as friends, after many men had been killed on each side.

In the mean time Sir Chaloner Ogle arrived at Jamaica, where he joined Vice-admiral Vernon, who now found himself at the head of the most formidable fleet and army that ever visited those seas, with full power to act at discretion. The conjoined squadrons consisted of twenty-nine ships of the line, with almost an equal number of frigates, fireships, and bomb-ketches, well manned, and plentifully supplied with all kinds of provisions, stores, and necessaries. The number of seamen amounted to fifteen thousand: that of the land-forces, including the American regiment of four battalions, and a body of negroes enlisted at Jamaica, did not fall short of twelve thousand. Had this armament been ready to act in the proper season of the year, under the conduct of wise experienced officers, united in counsels and steadily attached to the interest and honour of their country, the Havanah, and whole island of Cuba, might have been easily reduced: the whole treasure of the Spanish West-Indies

Indies would have been intercepted; and Spain must have been humbled into the most abject submission. But several unfavourable circumstances concurred to frustrate the hopes of the public. The ministry had detained Sir Chaloner Ogle at Spithead without any visible cause, until the season for action was almost exhausted: for, on the continent of New Spain, the periodical rains begin about the end of April; and this change in the atmosphere is attended with epidemical distempers, which render the climate extremely unhealthy: besides, the rain is so excessive, that for the space of two months no army can keep the field.

Sir Chaloner Ogle arrived at Jamaica on the 9th of January; and Admiral Vernon did not fail on his intended expedition till towards the end of the month. Instead of directing his course to the Havannah, which lay to leeward, and might have been reached in three days, he resolved to beat up against the wind to Hispaniola, in order to observe the motion of the French squadron, commanded by the Marquis d'Antin. The 15th of February had elapsed before he received certain information that the French admiral had sailed for Europe, in great distress, for want of men and provisions, which he could not procure in the West-Indies. Vernon, thus disappointed, called a council of war, in which it was determined to proceed for Carthagena, and make a vigorous attack upon that place both by sea and land.

On the 4th of March, in the evening, the whole fleet anchored in Playa Grande, to the windward of Carthagena, lying between that and Point Canoa; and in order to harraß the Spaniards, Vernon ordered his small frigates and fireships to get in shore, and lie in a line, as if he intended a descent to windward of the town: this obliged the Spanish governor to divide his force, by ordering a detachment that way, which threw up entrenchments for their security. Although Admiral de Torres had already sailed with the Span-

nish fleet to the Havannah, yet Carthagena was strongly fortified, and the garrison strengthened by reinforcements from the crews of some large ships which lay in the harbour, commanded by Don Blas de Lefo, an officer of experience and reputation.

Though the sea washes the walls of Carthagena, the town is inaccessible on that side by reason of the surf, the water shoaling near a league off: so that it can only be approached by the lake which forms the harbour, and is bounded by rocks: besides, the sea is very seldom smooth, so that landing is at all times very difficult. The only entrance into the harbour is near a league to the west of the city, between two narrow peninsulas, one called the Tierra Bomba, which is nearest the city, and the other called the Barradera. This passage, called *Bocca Chica*, or the Little Mouth, was defended on the Tierra Bomba by the castle St. Louis, a regular square, with four bastions, mounted with eighty-two guns and three mortars; but the glacis and counterescarp had not been finished. To this were added the fort of St. Philip, mounted with seven guns; the fort of St. Jago, with fifteen guns; and a small fort of four guns, called Battery de Chamba, which served as redoubts to the castle of Bocca Chica. On the other side of the mouth of the harbour was a fascine battery of fifteen guns, called the Barradera; and, in a small bay on the back of that, another battery of four guns; and facing the entrance of the harbour, on a small flat island, stood fort St. Joseph, of twenty-one guns. From this fort to Bocca Chica castle, a boom and cables were fixed across, fastened with three large anchors at each end; and just within the boom four men of war were moored in a line, on-board one of which was the Spanish admiral. These spread so far over the extent of the mouth of the harbour, that no ship could pass ahead or astern of them. Beyond this passage lies the great lake, or harbour of Carthagena,

two leagues and a half in extent from north to south, and land-locked on all sides; about midway to the town it grows narrower, and within about a league of the town, two points of land jut out from the smaller harbour; near the northermost of these was the strong fortress of Castille Grande, about eight miles up the harbour, being a regular square with four bastions, defended to the land by a wet ditch and glacis proper, and one face towards the sea with a raveline, and double line of guns. The number of guns in the fort was fifty-nine, though it had room to mount sixty-one. Opposite to this castle was a horse-shoe battery of twelve guns, called Mancinilla. In the middle, between these two forts, is a large shoal, with not above two or three feet water. In each of these were ships sunk to prevent the British fleet from getting in. Near three miles further up the harbour, on two flat sandy keys, or islands, stands Carthagera, and Himani, its suburbs, both irregular figures, but well fortified to the land with lakes, and morasses running round them. The city, which is in latitude 10. 26. N. was defended with one hundred and sixty guns, and the suburbs with one hundred and forty, and the water at the head of the shoal is so far off, that ships cannot approach near enough to do any material execution. South of the city, about a quarter of a mile from Himani gate, on an eminence about fifty or sixty feet high, stands the castle of St. Lazaro, being a square of about fifty feet, with three demy bastions, and two guns in each face, one in each flank, and three in each curtain; it overlooks all the town, although there is a brow of a hill about four hundred yards from it, which overlooks, and entirely commands it.

The importance of this place to the Spaniards had induced them to bestow such extraordinary attention in securing it from the attack of an enemy. The wealth which centred in this city had, indeed, exposed it to repeated assaults; in 1544, the American buccan-

neers

neers made a successful attack upon it, and enriched themselves with its spoil. In 1585 it was taken, and almost destroyed, by Sir Francis Drake, that scourge of the new Spanish settlements. M. de Pointis came before it in 1697, with a squadron of privateers, under the protection of the French king; and after obliging the fort of Bocca Chica to surrender, whereby the entrance of the bay was laid open, he landed his men, and besieged fort Lazaro, the taking of which was followed by the surrender of the city. This conquest has been attributed to a private correspondence between the governor and Pointis. Since that time, every precaution had been taken to increase the strength of the place, which, at the time that Admiral Vernon appeared before it, was deemed impregnable.

The British troops were landed on the 9th of March, on the island of Tierra Bomba, near the mouth of the harbour, which was secured by castles, batteries, bombs, chains, cables, and ships of war. General Wentworth, with Brigadier Guise and Colonel Wolfe, attended the landing, which was effected with little loss, covered by the fire of the Norfolk, Russell, and Shrewsbury, which ships anchored close under the forts of St. Jago and St. Philip. The latter, lying southermost, had her cable cut by the Spanish shot, and before she could let down another anchor, having fallen to leeward, drove towards the mouth of the harbour, where she lay exposed to the whole fire of the Spaniards, from two fascine batteries on the Barradera side, the forts of Bocca Chica and St. Joseph, with four men of war, of sixty and seventy guns: in this situation one hundred and sixty guns were pointed at the Shrewsbury, who could return no more than twenty-six. The gallant Captain Townsend, who commanded her, disdaining to retire, maintained this unequal combat for seven hours. Night intervening, the Spaniards ceased firing, when the admiral sent orders for the Shrewsbury to draw off. In this encounter

counter she lost twenty men killed, and forty wounded; the ship received two hundred and fifty shot in her hull, sixteen of which were between wind and water, whilst her masts, yards, and rigging, were entirely shot away. Gradual advances were made in the attack of the works, which defended the entrance of the harbour; and on the 12th, the Ludlow Castle began to throw shells into Bocca Chica, from a mortar which she had on-board. The next day a bomb battery was completed on shore, which played in the same direction; but it was not until the 15th that the landing of the artillery and ordnance was completed.

No sooner were the land-forces debarked, than they found themselves more annoyed by the climate than by the Spanish forts. Here all the fervid heat of the torrid zone is reflected from a white burning sand. The appalling heat of the day is succeeded by malignant nightly damps, which the most robust constitutions are unable to withstand. Sicknefs prevailed among the British troops, and the engineers who conducted the approaches were both dilatory and unskilful; a disagreement between the admiral and general had arisen, while the close connection between the operations of the troops and the fleet furnished occasion for its daily increase. Each sought every opportunity to express his dislike of the other; and, instead of acting vigorously in concert, their antipathy became so strong, that their zeal in the service of their country was absorbed in private resentment. The bravery of the men, however, served to supply the want of unanimity in their leaders. Three hundred sailors and two hundred soldiers proceeded by night in boats to attack a fascine battery on the Barradera. Captain Boscawen led the seamen to the attack, and Captains Washington and Murray commanded the soldiers. This party landed in a small sandy bay, to leeward of the battery. They had no sooner quitted their boats, than some cannon, which had been secretly planted

on

on the strand, began to play upon them. The sailors, being the farthest advanced, sustained all the severity of the shock. Had their courage forsaken them in that exigency, the whole detachment would have been swept away, but the peril of their situation served only to inspire them with a contempt of danger; they rushed in at the embrasures, made themselves masters of the battery before the enemy could charge their guns a second time, and by proving themselves superior to danger removed it. The firing of these guns gave a general alarm. The Spaniards at the larger battery fired with a grape shot as the sailors advanced, but without effect, for the guns were pointed too high. The contest was desperate, but very short: the sailors with irresistible spirit carried the battery, nailed up the guns, and after setting fire to the platforms, carriages, guard-houses, and magazines, returned to the ships with six wounded prisoners, having themselves sustained but little loss. For their bravery in this service, the admiral distributed a dollar to each man.

The destruction of this battery freed the troops from the greatest annoyance of their camp, and gave them an opportunity of working quietly on their grand battery, which was constructed in a wood, to prevent the enemy discovering it till completed, and was to play against the castle of Bocca Chica. But so dilatory or negligent were the engineers, though assisted with five hundred seamen, and two hundred and fifty blacks, besides as many pioneers as could be spared from the army, that a whole week was spent, and the battery far from being in any condition to incommode the castle. This gave the vice-admiral great concern, who expected the engineers would have seconded the success on the Barradera side, by opening their battery against Bocca Chica, which had been positively promised to be done at the same time.

On the 20th, at day-break, the garrison of Bocca Chica

Chica began a warm fire at the bomb-battery, though without doing any particular damage. But the Spaniards, sensible of the advantageous situation and utility of the Barradera battery, had been diligently repairing it, and on the 21st had built up some embrasures and mounted two guns, with which they again played on the bomb-battery, but were soon silenced by the Ripon, which the vice-admiral ordered to anchor as near as possible to it, and keep firing to prevent any farther working on the levelled battery.

It was now resolved by the commanders of the fleet, to make a general attack upon all the forts and batteries; and Commodore Lestock was appointed to that service, with three eighty-gun ships, and three seventy; such a force being all that could be drawn up, without danger of the ships annoying each other. Accordingly, on the 23d, Lestock, in the Boyne, with the Prince Frederick, Hampton-court, Princess Amelia, Suffolk, and Tilbury, went in to batter Bocca Chica castle, and the four ships posted there, namely, the Galicia, the admiral's ship, San Carlos, Africa, and St. Philip, all mounting upwards of sixty guns, and in the most advantageous position, both for opposing any attempt of slipping into the harbour, or to annoy any battery that could be raised ashore; and, as the Spanish ships had no interruption from the latter, they failed not to play as briskly on the commodore, and with greater execution than the castle. In the mean time, the Boyne, falling so far to leeward, as to lie exposed to the whole fire of the Spanish ships and fort St. Joseph, was very much shattered, and ordered off again that night, while the rest still continued there. Among these the Princess Amelia, belonging to Sir Chaloner Ogle's division, having fallen farther to leeward than was intended, lay fair to silence the new-mounted guns on the fascine battery, which she did accordingly: and this proved a great preservative to those who played the battery against

the castle, and also to the men in camp, into which the shot, fired from the fascine battery, flew over the hill, and annoyed the soldiers. The Prince Frederick and Hampton-court, sharing now between them the fire which had been employed against the Boyne, were also much shattered by morning, when the vice-admiral was obliged to call them off, after they had many of their men killed and wounded; and, among the former, the commander of the Prince Frederick, Lord Aubrey Beauclerc, who was an officer both of courage and of a cool temper. The Suffolk and Tilbury, being well anchored to the northward, lay successfully battering against the breach till evening, at which time every thing appearing fit for an assault, they were ordered off.

Every impediment being at length removed, by the bravery of the seamen, that prevented the army making an assault on Bocca Chica, General Wentworth, on the 25th, in the evening, directed the troops to move forward, whilst Captain Knowles, with a number of seamen in boats, made a favourable diversion, and threw the Spaniards into great confusion. Brigadier Blakeney, who was the commander of the day, had the direction of the assault. Upon a signal given, a volley of round shot was poured in upon the breach from the great-gun battery, and was immediately followed by a second of grape shot, which drove the centinels from the walls. No sooner did the grenadiers begin to mount the breach, than the Spanish garrison was dismayed, and fled in confusion. Don Blas de Lefo, who commanded the Spanish ships that were stationed at the mouth of the harbour, seeing the firmness with which the attack was made, gave orders for every ship to be scuttled. The Africa and San Carlos presently sunk; the St. Philip was set on fire; and the crews hurried so precipitately into their boats, that they rowed off, leaving the captain and sixty men on-board the Galicia, the only ship that remained.

Whilst

Whilst the Spaniards were thus thrown into consternation, Captain Knowles directed the boats to row close under the lee-shore; and from thence he stormed the fort of St. Joseph, which he took possession of about ten o'clock that night, the Spaniards abandoning it after having fired some few guns. The captains Knowles and Watson, being now within the boom, rowed their boats up to the Galicia, made the captain, and all on-board, prisoners, and secured the Spanish admiral's flag and colours. The Galicia being thus secured, the boats went to work on cutting the boom, and removing the ship out of the channel, in order to make a clear entrance for the fleet to come into the harbour.

On the 26th, being the day after taking Bocca Chica, the vice-admiral hastened into the harbour to make proper dispositions and give the necessary orders: but he had great difficulty to get in, as the San Carlos and Africa were sunk in the channel, and the St. Philip continued burning on the lee-shore, so that he was above three hours warping through, after anchoring in the narrows, before he could possibly sail up the harbour, which he did about two leagues that evening. In like manner the Burford and Orford were next day ordered to advance and post themselves across the harbour as near as possible, but just without gun-shot of Castillo Grande, in order to cut off all communication by water from the Spaniards. On the same day the Worcester got up to the vice-admiral, who sent her to anchor close by a wharf where was a good crane and spring of water, which last he thought proper to secure for the service of the fleet. The Weymouth and Cruiser sloop, getting in the same afternoon, were ordered to destroy the batteries at Passo Cavallos, a creek which parts the Grand Baru from the main, through which the supplies of provisions from Tolu and Sina were to pass, and where the Spaniards had erected two small batteries, one of

eight and the other of four guns; after they had performed it, the Cruiser went up the creek and brought away four large Sina hulks, being a kind of vessels scooped out of a solid tree, but large enough to carry twenty tons; these proved very serviceable in watering the fleet. In the mean time the vice and rear admiral's two divisions, with part of the transports, continued to sail and warp in as fast as they conveniently could; but were greatly retarded by blowing weather, which, by forcing all the small ships to take shelter in the mouth of the harbour, so choaked it up as to prevent the men of war making the desired dispatch, often anchoring foul of one another; but, being all got in on the 30th, the fireships and frigates were disposed round the harbour in order to guard every pass and creek, and to cut off any supplies going to the town; while Commodore Lestock with his division was left at Bocca Chica with orders to reembark the forces and cannon as soon as possible.

The fort of Castillo Grande was the next fortification which opposed their advances towards the town of Carthagena, for the security of which the Spaniards had moored and sunk seven of their galleons, and other ships, and had moored their two remaining men of war, the Conquistador of sixty-six guns, and the Dragon of sixty.

On the 30th the vice-admiral held a general council of war of the naval officers, in which it was resolved, to use all possible expedition to cut off the communication of the town on the land side, and make a descent at the most convenient place, and nearest the town. Immediately after Sir Chaloner Ogle and several more ships turned up the harbour and anchored at some distance from Castillo Grande, where the Spaniards made a show of preparing to receive them. But Captain Knowles, being sent in the evening to reconnoitre, observed that they were busy in moving about with thirteen launches, and next morning he found

found they had sunk the Conquistador and Dragon, and were removing things out of Castillo Grande. The captain immediately returned and acquainted Sir Chaloner Ogle of it, who instantly ordered him to weigh, and run in with his ship and fire on the castle, to see if they would return it; this he accordingly did, and, the castle not firing a shot, he sent his boats ashore, who rowed directly up to the castle, and took possession of it without any opposition.

Though this castle mounted fifty-nine guns, and was in a condition to make a good defence; yet the Spaniards perceiving, that the day before, the rear-admiral's boats were founding, and being well aware that his ships could lay their broadsides within pistol-shot of the castle, they abandoned it, having slightly spiked up the guns, without dismounting them, or knocking off their trunnions; and had thrown their powder into a cistern of water. But most of the guns were got clear again, and Captain Knowles was appointed governor of the castle, with a garrison of one hundred regular troops and fifty sailors. This was a most advantageous acquisition for shortening the operations of the army, as after their embarkation they could now reland within a league of the town; so that St. Lazar was the only remaining fort, the reduction of which was to be next undertaken; for, as it covered the south side of Carthagená, and commanded all the avenues, it was absolutely necessary to be in the possession of the British troops before they could advance a step farther, to lay siege to the town.

On the 1st of April, the vice-admiral came to an anchor close by Castillo Grande; the sailors were employed to heave the masts out of the Spanish ships which had been sunk, thereby to obtain a free channel over such as had been sunk in the deepest water, and enabling the British fleet to proceed so high, as with their cannon to cover the descent of the troops as near the town as possible. This service was effectually

tually performed by the inflexible ardour of the seamen, whereupon two bomb-ketches advanced, and two frigates, commanded by Captains Renton and Broderick, followed to cover them. The land-forces were landed at Texar de Gracias, a country house formerly hired by the South-Sea factors, and about two miles from St. Lazar. The first division of the troops was commanded by Brigadier Blakeney, to oppose which the Spaniards drew out the whole strength of the town, but the ships fired upon them so successfully, that numbers were swept away; so that the Spaniards, unable to stand their ground, retreated with precipitation.

General Wentworth, at the head of the forces, advanced through a long and narrow defile, where some few of our men were hurt by single shot from the paths and openings into the wood, the Spaniards having made a lodgement there, but were soon put to flight. About a mile further, coming out of the defile, about six hundred Spaniards were perceived to be advantageously posted, and seemed resolved to dispute our passage. The ground over which the troops were to march did not admit of much more than one large platoon in front, a lagoon lying on their left hand and a thick copse on their right, into which last the general ordered a party of American soldiers to fall upon the rear of any small parties which might be lodged there to flank them in their march. The grenadiers moved forward with great alacrity, and, after receiving two fires from the Spaniards with very little loss, the front platoon gave their fire at about the distance of half a musket-shot, and immediately wheeled to the right and left, to make room for the next to advance; from which the Spaniards judging that the whole body gave way, expressed their joy by a loud huzza; but, being quickly convinced of their mistake by the fire of the next platoons, they fell into disorder and fled with precipitation towards the city; upon
which

which the general immediately possessed himself of a commodious piece of ground for forming a camp, about a small mile from the castle of St. Lazar; and in the evening sent a party up to take possession of la Pola, which the Spaniards had abandoned. This was a convent situated on a hill, which overlooked the town and country for several leagues.

Thus far affairs went on prosperously; but a fatal delay in attacking the fort of St. Lazar, which secured to the town a free communication with the country, prevented that advantage being taken of the panic into which the Spaniards were thrown, by the bold advances of the British troops; thereby the enemy had an opportunity of finishing some works which they were carrying on farther to strengthen the place. Three days elapsed, in which the troops were obliged to lie on their arms at night, for want of tents, and by being thus exposed to the intense heat of the sun in the day-time, and the chilling night dews, were greatly enfeebled, and a contagious distemper spread itself through the camp.

The truth of the matter was, that the admiral and general had contracted a hearty contempt for each other, and took all opportunities of expressing their mutual dislike: far from acting vigorously in concert, for the advantage of the community, they maintained a mutual reserve, and separate cabals; and each proved more eager for the disgrace of his rival, than zealous for the honour of the nation. The general complained that the fleet lay idle, while his troops were harrassed by hard duty and distemper. The admiral affirmed that his ships could not lie near enough to batter the town of Carthagená: he upbraided the general with inactivity and want of resolution to attack the fort of St. Lazar, which commanded the town, and might be taken by scalade. Wentworth, stimulated by these reproaches, resolved to try the experiment. His forces marched up to the attack: but, the
guides

guides being slain, they mistook their route, and advanced to the strongest part of the fortification, where they were moreover exposed to the fire of the town. Colonel Grant, who commanded the grenadiers, was mortally wounded: the scaling ladders were found too short: the officers were perplexed for want of orders and directions: yet the soldiers sustained a severe fire for several hours, with surprising intrepidity, and at length retreated, leaving about six hundred killed or wounded on the spot. Their number was now so much reduced, that they could no longer maintain their footing on shore: besides, the rainy season had begun with such violence, as rendered it impossible for them to live in camp. They were, therefore, re-embarked: and all hope of further success immediately vanished. The admiral, however, in order to demonstrate the impracticability of taking the place by sea, sent in the *Gallicia*, one of the Spanish ships which had been taken at *Bocca Chica*, to cannonade the town, with sixteen guns mounted on one side, like a floating battery. This vessel, manned by detachments of volunteers from different ships, and commanded by Captain Hore, was warped into the inner harbour, and moored before day, at a considerable distance from the walls, in very shallow water. In this position she stood the fire of several batteries for some hours, without doing or sustaining much damage. When a sufficient trial had been made of the effect produced by this attack, the admiral ordered the men to be brought off in boats, and the cables of the ship to be cut; so that she drove, with the sea-breeze, upon a shoal, where she was soon filled with water. The inference which the admiral drew from this experiment was, that the depth of water in the inner harbour was not sufficient to admit large ships near enough to batter the town with any success. To confute this principle it has been asserted, that, although this was the case in that part of the harbour to which the *Gallicia*

licia was conducted, yet a little farther to the left he might have stationed four or five of his larger ships abreast, within pistol-shot of the walls; and, if this step had been taken when the land-forces marched to the attack of St. Lazar, in all probability the town would have been surrendered.

During the attack upon the town, a carcass, which was fired from a bomb-ketch, fell into the great church, where the principal magazine of powder lay: it set fire to some planks that covered this powder, by which it would very soon have occasioned a general explosion, sufficient to have laid the town in ruins; but the greatness of the danger led every one to exert themselves so effectually, that the fire was stifled, by throwing sand upon it, before it had proved fatal.

The sea officers and sailors having been employed in getting the masts, anchors, and cables, out of some of the Spanish ships that had been sunk, our fleet was soon in a condition of proceeding to sea again; and on the 23d and 24th it was resolved, in a general council of war, to return to Jamaica, by reason of the general sickness in the army. Under the direction of Captain Knowles, the entire demolition of Castillo Grande was completed on the 25th, and this took up the more time, on account of the vast thickness of the walls, and the hardness of the cement: also the fifty-nine pieces of ordnance in this fort were rendered unserviceable, by spiking them up, and knocking off their trunnions. After thus completing the demolition of all the defences of the harbour, and destroying the lime-kilns, in order by that means to retard the Spaniards from erecting other buildings, and carrying off all their store of lime and lime-stone, for the service of the hospital building at Jamaica, Vice-admiral Vernon left the harbour on the 6th of May, without injuring any of the inhabitants, or through wantonness giving the least loose to any of those lawless ravages common in war; which the admiral di-

rected to be carefully guarded against both by officers and sailors.

When the troops were re-embarked, the distempers peculiar to the climate and season began to rage with redoubled fury. On the 8th of May, the vice-admiral set sail for Jamaica, having stationed Captain Mayne, in the Worcester, with the Strafford, Princess Louisa, and Litchfield, to cruise to windward of Cape Tiberon till the 30th, for the security of the convoy, with victuallers and storeships, expected from England; and on the 19th, the vice-admiral arrived with the fleet in Port-Royal harbour, where he found the convoy safely arrived four days before him. Presently after he sent home seven eighty-gun ships, with the Hampton-Court, Burford, Windsor, Falmouth, and five frigates, under the care of Commodore Lestock. The climate of Jamaica was very unpropitious to the recovery of the sick, many of them died ashore, among whom was Lord Augustus Fitzroy, commander of the Orford.

It was necessary now to determine how the fleet and troops might be best employed against the enemy, for which purpose a general council of war was assembled on the 26th of May. In the opinion of the officers which composed it, the only expedition that was adviseable to be undertaken was against St. Jago de Cuba. The two admirals and both the generals signed this resolution, but the governor, Mr. Trelawney, dissented from it; and recommended an attempt upon Panama. Indeed the reduction of the town and port of Havannah was looked upon as impracticable, because, besides the strength of the place, Don Rodrigo de Torres lay there with a powerful fleet of Spanish men of war. The land-forces being now greatly reduced by the mortality which raged among them, the governor raised a corps of one thousand negroes for the expedition.

The admiral sailed from Jamaica on the 1st of July,
with

with eight ships of the line, a fifty-gun ship and eight frigates; having with him about forty transports, on-board of which were, including blacks, three thousand four hundred land-forces. On the 18th of the same month the fleet anchored in Walthenham harbour, on the south side of the island of Cuba, a large and secure haven, which protects the vessels that ride in it from the hurricanes which are so frequent in the West-Indies, especially at the time of year when this expedition was set on foot. Into this harbour the fleet sailed without molestation, and the troops debarked immediately. No sooner had the admiral cast anchor here, than he seemed to have laid his account for the reduction of the whole island; by giving the name of Cumberland-harbour to what had before borne the name of Walthenham. This place lies about eleven leagues to the south-west of St. Jago, and is distant by land about sixty miles, on which side the city is almost entirely defenceless. Its fortifications to the sea were not formidable, but the entrance into the harbour is so extremely narrow, and the navigation so dangerous, that nature has sufficiently secured it from a naval attack. These circumstances caused a resolution to be taken in a general council of war, to march the troops, with all possible expedition, to the attack of the place.

The army accordingly proceeded up the country, without meeting an enemy; but from some secret cause which was never explained, after they had proceeded about twenty miles up the country, they encamped on the banks of a navigable river, and there remained totally inactive as to their grand object: indeed, the general detached several reconnoitring parties, which falling in with small bodies of the enemy, repulsed them, with very little loss on either side. One of these reconnoitring parties, consisting of one hundred and fifty Americans and negroes, commanded by Major Dunster, penetrated as far as the village

of Elleguava, where he continued some time; but, not being supported by the main army, he returned to camp.

Whilst every thing remained inactive on shore, Admiral Vernon dispatched part of his fleet to block up the port of St. Jago, and to watch the motions of the Spanish admiral at the Havannah, expecting with the utmost impatience to hear of the army's progress. But on the 5th of October he had the mortification to receive a letter from General Wentworth, expressing his doubts of being able to advance farther, or even to subsist his army much longer in the part which they then possessed. On the 9th the general called a council of war, the members of which were unanimously of opinion, that it was impossible to march farther into the country without exposing the troops to certain ruin. The army nevertheless continued in its encampment till the 7th of November, when another council of war, consisting of the land-officers only, resolved, that the troops ought to be re-embarked with all possible expedition; and they were accordingly put on-board the transports on the 20th, without the least molestation from the enemy. The fleet and transports then proceeded to Jamaica. Thus ended the operations in the West-Indies during the year 1741, in which the lives of many brave men were sacrificed through the misconduct of their commanders. It is sometimes extremely difficult to assign the true cause of the failure of an expedition; that against Carthagena is such an one. How it came to pass that the man who attacked the place by sea, with a small force the year before, should find it impossible to reduce it with a much larger, although seconded by a numerous army, is hard to say. It has been the opinion of some very good judges of the strength and condition of the town, that after the several fortresses which commanded the lake were reduced, the town might have been taken by the fleet without the assistance

ance of any land-forces; but so injudiciously was the attack conducted, that no ships were stationed to annoy the town by sea, and the assault from the harbour has been censured as very improperly made. After all, though the English soldiers and sailors were disappointed of their expected spoils, yet the Spaniards sustained very severe losses by the dismantling of their forts, the spiking a considerable number of their guns, and the entire destruction of four men of war, an equal number of galleons, besides many small vessels. Some have charged the ministry at home with a secret design that the place should not be reduced, arising from an apprehension that such a conquest would precipitate the nation in a war with France, who was not likely to remain a quiet spectator of the dismemberment of the Spanish empire.

In Europe the British fleets made a great parade without performing any essential service. Sir John Norris was appointed to command a squadron of sixteen ships of the line, besides the *Blaze* and *Lightning* fireships, having upwards of eight thousand sailors on-board. With this considerable force he sailed for the coast of Spain, and arrived in the bay of Biscay with the whole fleet on the 5th of August, 1741; where after taking and destroying only some small vessels by Captain Harrison, in the *Argyle*, which apprized the country of the arrival of an English fleet, and cruising a little while on that coast, the admiral returned to Spithead on the 22d of the same month.

Admiral Haddock with thirteen men of war cruised in the Mediterranean during the summer. The principal services which his fleet was designed to perform were, to prevent the Spanish fleet from Cadiz and the French fleet from Toulon forming a junction, and to intercept the troops which were to be transported from Barcelona to Italy, in order to act against the Queen of Hungary. But unfortunately neither of these purposes was answered, for, while Haddock lay
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at anchor in the bay of Gibraltar, the Spanish fleet passed the straits in the night, and was joined by the French squadron from Toulon. The British admiral, sailing from Gibraltar, fell in with them a few days after, on which the united squadrons formed themselves in line of battle. Hereupon Haddock bore down upon the Spanish fleet, when the French admiral sent a flag of truce to inform him, that as the French and Spaniards were engaged in a joint expedition, he should be obliged to act in concert with his master's allies. This interposition prevented an engagement, the combined fleets amounting to more than double the number of the British squadron. Admiral Haddock was therefore obliged to desist, and proceeded to Port Mahon, leaving the enemy to prosecute their voyage without molestation. The nation was incensed at this transaction, and did not scruple to affirm that the hands of the British admiral were tied up by a neutrality entered into for Hanover.

In the month of July, two ships of Haddock's fleet fell in with three French men of war; Captain Barnet, the English commodore, supposing them to be Spanish register-ships, fired a shot in order to bring them to; upon their failing to comply with the signal, a sharp engagement ensued; after they had fought several hours, the French commander ceased firing, and thought proper to come to an explanation; when he and Barnet parted with mutual apologies.

The commander that most eminently distinguished himself at this time both for his activity and bravery, was Captain Ambrose, in the *Rupert* man of war of sixty guns, then on a cruise in the bay. He took the *St. Antonio de Padua*, a privateer belonging to *St. Sebastian's*, of sixteen guns and one hundred and fifty men, as also another privateer, called the *Biscay*, mounting ten carriage and two swivel guns, with one hundred and nineteen sailors on-board. These were desperate fellows who had taken twenty-three English prizes

prizes since the commencement of the war; but, after a smart engagement, they submitted to the British flag. Captain Ambrose, having brought his two prizes into Plymouth, failed again to his station; and on the 13th of September, as he was cruising in the bay off Machiacaca, in the evening he saw a sail from the mast-head, to the windward, when after chasing her, that night and the next day, about seventy-five leagues, he came up with and took her after some resistance, and brought her into Plymouth. She proved to be the *Duke de Vendome*, the largest privateer belonging to St. Sebastian's, mounting twenty-six carriage-guns, and two hundred and two men, among which were some English, Scots, and Irish, commanded by Martin de Areneder, a Frenchman. Captain Ambrose immediately proceeded again to cruise on his station.

On the 17th of November, the same officer descried two ships to the windward, which he chased, and at the same time he observed a sail to chase him, which happened to be a Spanish privateer of twenty-four carriage and twenty swivel-guns, with one hundred and eighty-seven men, commanded by Don Francisco de l'Arrea. Captain Ambrose, disregarding her, continued his first chase, and on coming up with them, did not fire to bring them to, but sent his boat on-board, and, finding they were Dutchmen, apprized them of his intention to deceive the privateer. Accordingly, the captain reefed his sails, and trimmed his ship, and the Spaniards suspecting her a consort of the Dutchmen, crowded sail, and by dusk was within two leagues, when Captain Ambrose shortened sail to wait for her. As soon as the privateer got within a mile, she discovered the force of the *Rupert*, and hauled upon a wind. Immediately Captain Ambrose followed her with all the sail he could make. On the 8th, at two in the morning, the *Rupert* got within gun shot of the privateer, but soon after lost sight of her;

her; at day-break Captain Ambrose saw her again, but the privateer escaped a second time. On the 9th, the captain discovered her again, pursued all day, and began to engage her at half an hour past midnight: the action lasted till two in the morning, when the *Rupert* boarding her she struck. The privateer had twelve men killed; two had their arms and legs shot away, and the captain with several of his men dangerously wounded, the *Rupert* having lost only one man, who fell into the sea in boarding the privateer, which was completely fitted out with a great quantity of small arms, cutlasses, poleaxes, &c. and had met with no prize in that cruise. As a recompence for Captain Ambrose's vigilance in suppressing the Spanish privateers, the merchants of London presented him with a large silver cup, his arms chased on one side, and on the other the representation of the *Rupert* in pursuit of a privateer; and the merchants of Bristol also presented him with a piece of plate of one hundred pounds value on the same account.

On the 12th of October, Sir John Norris sailed again in the *Victory* from St. Helen's, upon another expedition, accompanied with the *Royal George*, *Royal Sovereign*, *Barfleur*, *Neptune*, *Sandwich*, *Nassau*, *Buckingham*, *Newcastle*, and *Port Mahon*. This fleet proceeded for the Spanish coast, the arrival of which did not much terrify the inhabitants, especially as, since the last visit of a British squadron, they had put themselves in a posture of defence, by repairing their fortifications, and having their militia ready posted along the shore; so that without attempting anything, the admiral returned with the squadron for England, and arrived at Spithead on the 6th of November.

These several expeditions, carried on with such considerable force, and at so vast an expence, without effectually annoying the enemy, although under the conduct of an admiral who had formerly acquired great

great naval glory, raised a general discontent in the nation.

Many captures were made both by the Spaniards and the English, chiefly by the privateers of the two kingdoms which cruised both in Europe and America. It has been computed, that the captures made of British ships from the commencement of the war to the end of the year 1741, amounted to 372 merchantmen of different burdens; the Spaniards on their part lost 390, notwithstanding which the value of the British prizes exceeded these of Spain. What added to the mortification which the merchants endured was, that the Spanish cruisers had the audacity to visit the English coasts, and to come within soundings; whilst the board of admiralty was shamefully remiss in stationing frigates in such a manner as should protect the coasts from insult, and give security to the trade of the kingdom. The merchants at length determined to lay their grievances before parliament, and solicit assistance from thence.

The affairs on the continent of Europe were now more than ever embroiled. The King of Prussia had demanded of the court of Vienna part of Silesia, by virtue of old treaties of co-fraternity, which were either obsolete or annulled; and promised to assist the queen with all his forces, in case she should comply with his demand; but this being rejected with disdain, he entered Silesia at the head of an army, and prosecuted his conquests with great rapidity. In the mean time, the Queen of Hungary was crowned at Presburg, after having signed a capitulation, by which the liberties of that kingdom were confirmed; and the grand duke, her consort, was, at her request, associated with her for ten years in the government. At the same time the states of Hungary refused to receive a memorial from the Elector of Bavaria. During these transactions, his Prussian majesty made his public entrance into Breslaw, and confirmed all the pri-

vileges of the inhabitants. One of his generals surprized the town and fortrefs of Jablunka, on the confines of Hungary: Prince Leopald of Anhalt-Deffau, who commanded another army, which formed the blockade of Great Glogau on the Oder, took the place by fealade, made the Generals Wallis and Reytki prifoners, with a thoufand men that were in garrifon: here, likewise, the victor found the military cheft, fifty pieces of brafs cannon, and a great quantity of ammunition.

The Queen of Hungary had folicted the maritime powers for affiftance, but found them fearful and backward. Being obliged, therefore, to exert herfelf with the more vigour, ſhe ordered Count Neuperg to affemble a body of forces, and endeavour to flop the progreſs of the Pruffians in Sileſia. The two armies encountered each other in the neighbourhood of Neifs, at a village called Molwitz; and, after an obftinate diſpute, the Austrians were obliged to retire, with the loſs of four thouſand men killed, wounded, or taken. The advantage was dearly purchaſed by the King of Pruffia. His kinfman Frederic margrave of Brandenburgh, and Lieutenant-general Schuylemberg, were killed in the engagement, together with a great number of general officers, and about two thouſand foldiers. After this action, Brieg was furrendered to the Pruffians, and he forced the important paſs of Fryewalde, which was defended by four thouſand Auſtrian huſſars. The Engliſh and Dutch miniſters, who accompanied him in his progreſs, ſpared no pains to effect an accommodation: but the two ſovereigns were too much irritated againſt each other to acquieſce in any terms that could be propoſed. The Queen of Hungary was incenſed to find herſelf attacked, in the day of her diſtreſs, by a prince to whom ſhe had given no fort of provocation; and his Pruffian majeſty charged the court of Vienna with a deſign either to aſſaſſinate, or carry him off by treachery:

treachery: a design which was disowned with expressions of indignation and disdain. Count Neuperg being obliged to abandon Silesia, in order to oppose the Bavarian arms in Bohemia, the King of Prussia sent thither a detachment to join the elector, under the command of Count Dessau, who, in his route, reduced Glatz and Neiss, almost without opposition: then his master received the homage of the Silesian states at Breslaw, and returned to Berlin. In December the Prussian army was distributed in winter quarters in Moravia, after having taken Olmutz, the capital of that province; and in March his Prussian majesty formed a camp of observation in the neighbourhood of Magdeburg.

The Elector of Hanover was alarmed at the success of the King of Prussia, in apprehension that he would become too formidable a neighbour. A scheme was said to have been proposed to the court of Vienna, for attacking that prince's electoral dominions, and dividing the conquest: but it never was put in execution. Nevertheless, the troops of Hanover were augmented: the auxiliary Danes and Hessians in the pay of Great Britain were ordered to be in readiness to march; and a good number of British forces encamped and prepared for embarkation. The subsidy of 300,000*l.* granted by parliament was remitted to the Queen of Hungary; and every thing seemed to preface the vigorous interposition of his Britannic majesty. But in a little time after his arrival at Hanover, that spirit of action seemed to flag, even while her Hungarian majesty tottered on the verge of ruin. France resolved to seize this opportunity of crushing the house of Austria. In order to intimidate the Elector of Hanover, Mareschal Mallebois was sent with a numerous army into Westphalia; and this expedient proved effectual. A treaty of neutrality was concluded; and the King of Great Britain engaged to vote for the Elector of Bavaria at the ensuing elec-

tion of an emperor. The design of the French court was to raise this prince to the imperial dignity, and furnish him with such succours as should enable him to deprive the Queen of Hungary of her hereditary dominions.

While the French minister at Vienna endeavoured to amuse the queen with the strongest assurances of his master's friendship, a body of five-and-thirty thousand men began their march for Germany, in order to join the Elector of Bavaria: another French army was assembled upon the Rhine; and the Count de Belleisle, being provided with large sums of money; was sent to negotiate with different electors. Having thus secured a majority of voices, he proceeded to Munich, where he presented the Elector of Bavaria with a commission, appointing him generallissimo of the French troops marching to his assistance; and now the treaty of Nymphenburg was concluded. The French king engaged to assist the elector with his whole power towards raising him to the imperial throne: the elector promised, that after his elevation he would never attempt to recover any of the towns or provinces of the empire which France had conquered: that he would, in his imperial capacity, renounce the barrier-treaty; and agree that France should irrevocably retain whatever places he should subdue in the Austrian Netherlands. The next step of Belleisle was to negotiate another treaty between France and Prussia, importing, That the Elector of Bavaria should possess Bohemia, Upper Austria, and the Tyrolese: that the King of Poland should be gratified with Moravia and Upper Silesia; and that his Prussian majesty should retain Lower Silesia, with the town of Neiss and the county of Glatz. These precautions being taken, Count Belleisle repaired to Frankfort in quality of ambassador and plenipotentiary from France, at the imperial diet of election. It was in this city that the French king published a declaration,

declaration, signifying, that as the King of Great Britain had assembled an army to influence the approaching election of an emperor, his most christian majesty, as guarantee of the treaty of Westphalia, had ordered some troops to advance towards the Rhine, with a view to maintain the tranquillity of the Germanic body, and secure the freedom of the imperial election.

In July, the Elector of Bavaria, being joined by the French forces under Marshal Broglio, surprised the imperial city of Passau, upon the Danube; and, entering Upper Austria, at the head of seventy thousand men, took possession of Lintz, where he received the homage of the states of that country. Understanding that the garrison of Vienna was very numerous, and that Count Palfi had assembled thirty thousand Hungarians in the neighbourhood of this capital, he made no farther progress in Austria, but marched into Bohemia, where he was reinforced by a considerable body of Saxons, under the command of Count Rutowski, natural son to the late King of Poland. By this time his Polish majesty had acceded to the treaty of Nymphenburg, and declared war against the Queen of Hungary, on the most frivolous pretences. The Elector of Bavaria advanced to Prague, which was taken in the night by escalade: an achievement in which Maurice count of Saxe, another natural son of the King of Poland, distinguished himself at the head of the French forces. In December the Elector of Bavaria made his public entry into his capital, where he was proclaimed King of Bohemia, and inaugurated with the usual solemnities; then he set out for Frankfort, to be present at the diet of election.

At this period the Queen of Hungary saw herself abandoned by all her allies, and seemingly devoted to destruction. She was not, however, forsaken by her courage; nor destitute of good officers, and an
able

able ministry. She retired to Presburg, and in a pathetic Latin speech to the states, expressed her confidence in the loyalty and valour of her Hungarian subjects. The nobility of that kingdom, touched with her presence and distress, assured her unanimously, that they would sacrifice their lives and fortunes in her defence. The ban being raised, that brave people crowded to her standard: and the diet expressed their resentment against her enemy by a public edict, excluding for ever the electoral house of Bavaria from the succession to the crown of Hungary: yet, without the subsidy she received from Great Britain, their courage and attachment would have proved ineffectual. By this supply she was enabled to pay her army, erect magazines, complete her warlike preparations, and put her strong places in a posture of defence. In December, her generals, Berenclau and Mentzel, defeated Count Thoring, who commanded eight thousand men, at the pass of Scardingen, and, opening their way into Bavaria, laid the whole country under contribution; while Count Khevenhulier retook the city of Lintz, and drove the French troops out of Austria. The grand signor assured the Queen of Hungary, that, far from taking advantage of her troubles, he should seize all opportunities to convince her of his friendship; the pope permitted her to levy a tenth on the revenues of the clergy within her dominions; and even to use all the church plate for the support of the war.

During this summer the attention of the people was called off from foreign to domestic transactions. The parliament being dissolved by proclamation in April, writs were issued for electing a new one. Never were greater exertions made than on this occasion, and indeed this election may be considered as producing the most violent contest between the two parties, which had happened since the revolution. The two contending parties were now generally called the *court* and *country*

country party; though the former affected to call themselves the Whig, and the other the Tory, interest; which distinction was certainly ill-founded, because the Prince of Wales and many of the most eminent whigs were at the head of the country party, and on the other hand the court party was zealously assisted and supported by almost the whole body of Roman catholics, and by the bishops and dignified clergy. The Duke of Argyle exerted himself so successfully among the shires and boroughs of Scotland, that the partisans of the ministry could not secure six members out of the whole number returned from North Britain. They were, however, much more fortunate in the election of the thirteen peers, who were chosen strictly according to the list transmitted from court. Instructions were delivered by the constituents to a great number of members returned for cities and counties, exhorting and requiring them to oppose a standing army in time of peace; to vote for the mitigation of the excise laws; for the repeal of septennial parliaments; for the limitation of placemen in the house of commons, that every particular of the public expence should be examined into, and proper measures taken, to redress those grievances under which the nation groaned.

The new parliament met on the 1st of December, and again chose Mr. Onslow their speaker. His majesty opened the session on the 4th, with a speech, in which he represented the dangers with which Europe was threatened, by the confederacy for subverting the house of Austria; and recommending to both houses, a necessary concern for maintaining the liberties of Europe at that important crisis.

It soon appeared that the country party had obtained a majority in the house of commons, and that the power of Sir Robert Walpole was in the greatest danger. He knew that the majority of a single vote might, at that time, commit him prisoner to the tower; and

and that his safety depended on his dividing the opposition; he therefore employed all his credit and dexterity to produce this. A message was sent by the Bishop of Oxford to the Prince of Wales, who was at the head of the opposition, importing, that if his royal highness would write a letter of condescension to the king, he and all his counsellors should be taken into favour; 50,000*l.* be added to his revenue, four times that sum be immediately disbursed for the payment of his debts; and, in due time, a suitable provision be made for all his followers. Yet this proposal, though so extremely advantageous, the prince declined; and declared, that he would accept of no such conditions while Sir Robert continued to direct the public affairs: that he considered him as a bar between his majesty and the affections of his people; as the author of the national grievances, and the sole cause of that contempt in which Great Britain was held in all the courts of Europe. Sir Robert, being thus disappointed, and finding that he had little power in determining disputed elections, upon an opposition of this kind, declared that he would never more sit in that house; and the next day, which was the 3d of February, 1742, the king adjourned both houses of parliament till the 18th of the same month. In this interim, Sir Robert was created Earl of Orford, and resigned all his employments. Upon this occasion he displayed the most prudent policy, by separating the parts which composed the opposition. Walpole's place of chancellor of the exchequer was bestowed upon Mr. Sandys, who was also appointed one of the lords of the treasury; and the Earl of Wilmington succeeded him as first commissioner of that board. Lord Harrington, being created an earl, was declared president of the council; and, in his room, Lord Cartaret became secretary of state: Mr. Pulteney was sworn of the privy council, and afterwards created Earl of Bath: the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham was made head

head of the admiralty, in the room of Sir Charles Wager: and the Earl of Stair appointed field-marshal of all his majesty's forces, and ambassador extraordinary to the states-general.

On the 7th of February, the Prince of Wales, attended by a numerous retinue of his adherents, waited on his majesty, who gave him a gracious reception, and ordered his guards to be restored. The reconciliation between the king and the prince, together with the change of the ministry, were celebrated with public rejoicings all over the kingdom; and the utmost concord appeared in the house of commons. But it was soon found, that those who had declaimed the loudest against the public measures had been solely influenced by motives of self-interest; and those motions which had been deemed most patriotic, on being now made to the house, were opposed by those who had formerly exerted themselves with the greatest eloquence in their defence. Among other instances, a motion being made by Sir Robert Godschall, for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the act for septennial parliaments, he was warmly opposed by Mr. Pulteney and Mr. Sandys, and the question passed in the negative. From this, and many other instances of the like kind, it appeared, that, though the ministry had been changed, the same measures were pursued.

The new parliament voted forty thousand seamen, and sixty-two thousand five hundred landmen, for the service of the year 1742; the expence of the year amounted to near six millions. The house of commons took into consideration the state of the linen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland, and, in order to contribute to their farther advancement, an act was passed, whereby an additional duty was laid on all foreign cambrics imported into Great Britain, and for allowing thereout a bounty upon certain species of British and Irish linen exported. The bank of England this year lent the public towards the supplies,

plies, the sum of 1,600,000*l.* in consideration of which service, an act of parliament passed to continue to that company the exclusive privileges of banking, formed by a partnership of more than six persons, till one year's notice, and repayment of principal and arrears, after the 1st of August, 1764. By this act, persons forging, counterfeiting, or altering, of any bank-note, bill of exchange, dividend-warrant, or any bond of obligation under that company's seal, or any indorsement thereon, or knowingly uttering the same, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. Hereby also the company's servants breaking their trust to the company, shall suffer death as felons, without benefit of clergy.

By an act passed at this time, a bounty of five pounds over and above his wages was granted to every able-bodied seaman, and three pounds to every ordinary seaman; and the widows of such as might from thenceforth be killed in the service were granted a year's pay as a bounty. This act extended to Ireland. By it, the pay for seamen in the merchant's service was regulated at thirty-five shillings per month, for the next twelve months following, and not to exceed that sum.

By this time great changes had happened in the affairs of the continent. The Elector of Bavaria was chosen Emperor of Germany at Franckfort on the Maine, and crowned by the name of Charles VII. on the 12th of February. Thither the Imperial diet was removed from Ratisbon: they confirmed his election, and indulged him with a subsidy of fifty Roman months, amounting to about 200,000*l.* sterling. In the mean time, the Austrian general, Khevenhuller, ravaged his electorate, and made himself master of Munich, the capital of Bavaria: he likewise laid part of the Palatine under contribution, in resentment for that elector's having sent a body of his troops to reinforce the Imperial army. In March, Count Saxe, with a detach-

a detachment of French and Bavarians, reduced Egra; and the Austrians were then obliged to evacuate Bavaria, though they afterwards returned. Khevenhüller took post in the neighbourhood of *Prattau*, and detached General Bernclau to Dinglefing on the Iser, to observe the motions of the enemy, who were now become extremely formidable. In May, a detachment of French and Bavarians advanced to the castle of Hilkersburg on the Danube, with a view to take possession of a bridge over the river: the Austrian garrison immediately marched out to give them battle, and a severe action ensued, in which the Imperialists were defeated.

In the beginning of the year, the Queen of Hungary had assembled two considerable armies in Moravia and Bohemia. Prince Charles of Lorraine, at the head of fifty thousand men, advanced against the Saxons and Prussians, who thought proper to retire with precipitation from Moravia, which they had invaded. Then the prince took the route to Bohemia; and Marshal Broglie, who commanded the French forces in that country, must have fallen a sacrifice, had not the King of Prussia received a strong reinforcement, and entered that kingdom before his allies could be attacked. The two armies advanced towards each other; and, on the 17th of May, joined battle at Czaflaw, where the Austrians at first gained a manifest advantage, and penetrated as far as the Prussian baggage: then the irregulars began to plunder so eagerly, that they neglected every other consideration. The Prussian infantry took this opportunity to rally: the battle was renewed, and, after a very obstinate contest, the victory was snatched out of the hands of the Austrians, who were obliged to retire, with the loss of five thousand men killed, and twelve hundred taken by the enemy. The Prussians paid dear for the honour of remaining on the field of battle; and from the circumstances of this action the king is said

to have conceived a disgust to the war. When the Austrians made such progress in the beginning of the engagement, he rode off with great expedition, until he was recalled by a message from his general, Count Schwerin, assuring his majesty that there was no danger of a defeat. Immediately after this battle, he discovered an inclination to accommodate all differences with the Queen of Hungary. The Earl of Hyndford, ambassador from the court of Great Britain, who accompanied him in his campaign, and was vested with full power by her Hungarian majesty, did not fail to cultivate this favourable disposition: and, on the 1st of June, a treaty of peace between the two powers was concluded at Breslaw. The queen ceded to his Prussian majesty Upper and Lower Silesia, with the county of Glatz in Bohemia; and he charged himself with the payment of the sum lent by the merchants of London to the late emperor on the Silesian revenues. He likewise engaged to observe a strict neutrality during the war, and to withdraw his forces from Bohemia, in fifteen days after the ratification of the treaty, in which were comprehended the King of Great Britain as Elector of Hanover, the czarina, the King of Denmark, the states-general, the house of Wolfenbuttle, and King of Poland as Elector of Saxony.

The King of Prussia recalled his troops; while Marshal Broglie, who commanded the French auxiliaries in that kingdom, and Count Belleisle, abandoned their magazines and baggage, and retired with precipitation under the cannon of Prague. There they entrenched themselves in an advantageous situation; and Prince Charles, being joined by the other body of Austrians, under Prince Lobkowitz, encamped in sight of them, on the hills of Girifnitz. The Grand Duke of Tuscany arrived in the Austrian army, of which he took the command; and the French generals offered to surrender Prague, Egra, and all the
other

other places they possessed in Bohemia, provided they might be allowed to march off with their arms, artillery, and baggage. The proposal was rejected, and Prague invested on all sides about the end of July. Though the operations of the siege were carried on in an awkward and slovenly manner, the place was so effectually blocked up, that famine must have compelled the French to surrender at discretion, had not very extraordinary efforts been made for their relief. The King of France was no sooner apprized of the condition to which Broglie and Belleisle were reduced, than he sent orders to Marshal Maillebois, who commanded his army on the Rhine, to march to their relief. His troops were immediately put in motion; and when they reached Amberg in the Upper Palatinate, were joined by the French and Imperialists from Bavaria. Prince Charles of Lorraine, having received intelligence of their junction and design, left eighteen thousand men to maintain the blockade of Prague, under the command of General Festinitz, while he himself, with the rest of his army, advanced to Haydon on the frontiers of Bohemia. There he was joined by Count Khevenhuller, who from Bavaria had followed the enemy, now commanded by Count Seckendorff and Count Saxe. Seckendorff, however, was sent back to Bavaria, while Marshal Maillebois entered Bohemia, on the 25th of September. But he marched with such precaution, that Prince Charles could not bring him to an engagement. Meanwhile Festinitz, for want of sufficient force, was obliged to abandon the blockade of Prague; and the French generals, being now at liberty, took post at Leutmaritz. Maillebois advanced as far as Kadan: but seeing the Austrians possessed of all the passes of the mountains, he marched back to the Palatinate, and was miserably harrassed in his retreat by Prince Charles, who had left a strong body with Prince Lobkowitz, to watch the motions of Belleisle and Broglie.

These generals, seeing themselves furrounded on all hands, returned to Prague, whence Broglie made his escape in the habit of a courier, and was sent to command the army of Maillebois, who was by this time disgraced. Prince Lobkowitz, who now directed the blockade of Prague, had so effectually cut off all communication between that place and the adjacent country, that in a little time the French troops were reduced to great extremity, both from the severity of the season, and the want of provision. They were already reduced to the necessity of eating horse-flesh, and unclean animals; and they had no other prospect but that of perishing by famine or war, when their commander formed the scheme of a retreat, which was actually put in execution. Having taken some artful precautions to deceive the enemy, he, in the middle of December, departed from Prague at midnight, with about fourteen thousand men, thirty pieces of artillery, and some of the principal citizens as hostages for the safety of nine hundred soldiers whom he had left in garrison. Notwithstanding the difficulties he must have encountered at that season of the year, in a broken and unfrequented road, which he purposely chose, he marched with such expedition, that he had gained the passes of the mountains, before he was overtaken by the horse and hussars of Prince Lobkowitz. The fatigue and hardships which the miserable soldiers underwent are inexpressible. A great number perished in the snow, and many hundreds, fainting with weakness, cold, and hunger, were left to the mercy of the Austrian irregulars, consisting of the most barbarous people on the face of the earth. Count Belleisle, though tortured with the hip-gout, behaved with surprising resolution and activity. He caused himself to be carried in a litter to every place where he thought his presence was necessary, and made such dispositions, that the pursuers never could make an impression upon the body of his troops: but
all

all his artillery, baggage, and even his own equipage, fell into the hands of the enemy. On the 29th of December, he arrived at Egra, from whence he proceeded to Alsace without further molestation: but, when he returned to Versailles, he met with a very cold reception, notwithstanding the gallant exploit which he had performed. After his escape, Prince Lobkowitz returned to Prague, and the small garrison which Belleisle had left in that place surrendered upon honourable terms; so that this capital reverted to the house of Austria.

The King of Great Britain, resolving to make a powerful diversion in the Netherlands, had, in the month of April, ordered sixteen thousand effective men to be embarked for that country; but, as this step was taken without any previous concert with the states-general, the Earl of Stair, destined to the command of the forces in Flanders, was in the mean time appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to their high mightinesses, in order to persuade them to co operate vigorously in the plan which his Britannic majesty had formed: a plan by which Great Britain was engaged as a principal in a foreign dispute, and entailed upon herself the whole burthen of an expensive war, big with ruin and disgrace. England, from being the umpire, was now become a party in all continental quarrels; and, instead of trimming the balance of Europe, lavished away her blood and treasure in supporting the interest and allies of a puny electorate in the north of Germany. The King of Prussia had been at variance with the Elector of Hanover. The Duchy of Mecklenburg was the avowed subject of dispute: but his Prussian majesty is said to have had other more provoking causes of complaint, which, however, he did not think proper to divulge. The King of Great Britain found it convenient to accommodate these differences. In the course of this summer, the two powers

ers concluded a convention, in consequence of which the troops of Hanover evacuated Mecklenberg, and three regiments of Brandenburg took possession of those bailiwicks that were mortgaged to the King of Prussia. The Elector of Hanover being now secured from danger, sixteen thousand troops of that country, together with the six thousand auxiliary Hessians, began their march for the Netherlands; and about the middle of October arrived in the neighbourhood of Brussels, where they encamped. The Earl of Stair repaired to Ghent, where the British forces were quartered: a body of Austrians was assembled; and, though the season was far advanced, he seemed determined upon some expedition: but all of a sudden the troops were sent into winter-quarters. The Austrians retired to Luxemburg; the English and Hessians remained in Flanders; and the Hanoverians marched into the county of Leige, without paying any regard to the bishop's protestation.

The states-general had made a considerable augmentation of their forces by sea and land; but, notwithstanding the repeated instances of the Earl of Stair, they resolved to adhere to their neutrality: they dreaded the neighbourhood of the French; and they were far from being pleased to see the English get footing in the Netherlands. The term of the subsidy-treaty between Great Britain and Denmark expiring, his Danish majesty refused to renew it; nor would he accede to the peace of Breslau. On the other hand, he became subsidiary of France, with which also he concluded a new treaty of commerce. The Court of Versailles were heartily tired of maintaining the war in Germany, and had actually made equitable proposals of peace to the Queen of Hungary, by whom they were rejected. Thus repulsed, they redoubled their preparations; and endeavoured, by advantageous offers, to detach the King of Sardinia from the interest of the house of Austria.

Austria; but in this they did not succeed. The pope was passive during the whole campaign: the Venetians maintained their neutrality, and the King of the two Sicilies was over-awed by the British fleet under Haddock in the Mediterranean.

The remonstrances which had been made to parliament, not only by the merchants of London, but from Bristol, Exeter, Glasgow, Liverpool, Lancaster, Biddeford, Southampton, and other places; setting forth that the British trade and commerce had been continually exposed to the depredations of Spanish privateers, ever since the breaking out of the war, led the house of commons to enter into resolutions for the better protection of the commerce of the nation, and a number of frigates were appointed to cruise in the channel and along the coasts, to disperse the ships of Spain that infested those parts.

A reinforcement of ten sail under the command of Commodore Lestock, who had left the West-Indies soon after the return of the fleet from the expedition against Carthagena, was sent to Admiral Haddock, in the Mediterranean, and arrived at Port Mahon on the 1st of February. Haddock, whom chagrin had reduced to a bad state of health, quitted the command to Lestock, and embarked on-board the *Roebuck* man of war for England.

Lestock, whilst his fleet was getting ready for sea, dispatched some cruisers to the coast of Spain; these intercepted several vessels laden with provisions, designed for the Spanish troops.

On the 12th of April the commodore left Port Mahon, having with him a fleet consisting of twenty-eight men of war, with which he proceeded to Toulon, from whence, after throwing the inhabitants into the utmost consternation, he departed, and proceeded to Antibes; and along the coast of Italy.

One of the first steps taken by the new ministry was to appoint Admiral Matthews to the command of

the Mediterranean fleet: on which occasion he was advanced to be vice-admiral of the red, and Lestock, who was to be second in command, was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the white. Admiral Matthews set sail on the 16th of April from Spithead, having with him four ships of the line, and under his convoy the merchant ships for Oporto, Lisbon, and the Levant. He was likewise invested with the character of minister plenipotentiary to the King of Sardinia and the states of Italy.

The admiral joined the fleet at Villa Franca near Nice, and immediately directed Captain Norris to destroy five Spanish galleys, which had put into the bay of St Tropez; which service was effectually and expeditiously performed. It presently appeared very evidently, that no good understanding subsisted between the commander in chief and the second in command, the former openly attacking the latter as soon as he arrived, on the score of a breach of respect, which the other insisted he had duly paid. In the month of May, Matthews was joined by Rear-admiral Rowley, which rendered the British fleet somewhat superior to those of France and Spain united; which, however, still kept safe moored in the harbour of Toulon, whilst detachments from the English fleet scoured the coasts of Catalonia, Provence, and Italy. Whilst things remained in this situation, a French man of war sailed close along the harbour of Villa Franca, in sight of the British fleet, without paying the usual compliment to the flag. Admiral Matthews fired a gun at the Frenchman, to remind him of his omission, but this did not obtain the required salute. A man of war was hereupon ordered out, in order to chastise such insolence, who, at length, poured a broadside into the French ship, which sunk her instantly. Soon after this piece of chastisement was inflicted, Rowley was detached with eight sail to cruise off the harbour of Toulon; in which station he fell in with and took a
great

great number of the enemy's merchantmen, bound for different ports in Provence and Languedoc, having on-board necessaries for the Spaniards.

In August another squadron was sent out under Commodore Martin, into the bay of Naples, to require of his Sardinian majesty, that he should immediately recall his troops that had joined the Spanish army, and enter into an engagement to remain neuter during the war, or, in case of his refusal, to lay his capital in ashes. On the appearance of this force, and when the terms insisted on were known, the city was filled with consternation; but the king, by a prudent compliance, averted the impending danger. The commodore having accomplished the object on which he was sent, rejoined his admiral, who had, by that time, taken his station with his whole fleet in the road of Hieres, there to continue during the winter season.

At the same time, Captain Norris in the Kingston of fifty guns, and Captain Callis in the Duke fireship, whilst cruising between Villa Franca and the isles of Hieres, had intelligence that five Spanish gallies laden with ammunition and provisions for the Spanish army were sailed from St. Margareta, and had arrived at St. Tropez, a little harbour in Provence; they immediately followed them thither, with an intention to detain them till they had received orders from the vice-admiral in what manner to regulate their behaviour: but the Spanish gallies, on their arrival, began to fire on the British ships, and by thus breaking the rules established for a neutral port, Captain Norris directly gave orders to Captain Callis to set fire to them, which he executed accordingly and destroyed them: while another part of the British squadron, cruising on the coast of Catalonia, bombarded the towns of Mataro and Palamos, by which a great part of the houses were destroyed, and many of the inhabitants buried under the ruins.

While the vice-admiral lay in Hieres bay, having
 H h 2. received

received intelligence, that the Spaniards had got together some considerable magazines at St. Remo, a Genoese town on the Mediterranean, thirty miles north-east of Nice, he dispatched thither Capt. Martin, towards the latter end of August, who arrived before that place on the 1st of September, when he immediately sent a party on shore to search for the magazines, which they found, and entirely destroyed a large quantity of corn and flour, with two hundred and fifty quintals of straw, designed for the use of the Spanish army: after which nothing of any great importance happened this year in the British fleet, which continued their station off Toulon.

In the mean time the English merchants lost great numbers of ships in the British and German oceans, by which means their trade to Holland was greatly interrupted, and even became very precarious along their own coasts: besides, the Spaniards took and carried many considerable prizes into Vigo, Bilboa, and St. Sebastian, where our sailors suffered inexpressible hardships, being driven barefooted one or two hundred miles up the country, where they were thrust into damp dungeons, and allowed only bread and water by the Spaniards; and, had not sixpence a day been granted by the British government to every prisoner (and which was regularly paid them), they would have inevitably perished.

Many, however, of the British commanders, both of the king's ships and privateers, took several rich prizes from the Spaniards, and destroyed a considerable number of their privateers, while the masters of the merchantmen bravely defended themselves, and never were taken but by a much superior force. Some of these gallant actions are as follows:

The Earl of Northesk, commander of the *Loo* man of war, being on a cruise off cape Finisterre, had intelligence of a small privateer being at Porto Novo; upon which he stood in there on the 30th of June, but
the

the privateer discovered him, got higher up the river than the Loo could venture; and it falling calm, Lord Northesk was obliged to anchor close by the towns of Porto Novo and St. Jago, into which he fired a few shot: then landing some men, he dismounted four guns which were on a battery at Porto Novo; and after setting fire to several houses in St. Jago, he proceeded on his cruise, where, on the 7th of July, his lordship meeting with the Deal-castle man of war, commanded by Captain Elton, and receiving information of some vessels being at Vigo, they both ran up the river, and anchoring before that town, they made prize of four vessels, after firing several shot into the town, in order to cover the boats while they cut them away, a smart fire of musketry from the shore being kept at them all the time. After this, the men of war continued their cruise, during which Lord Northesk, upon intelligence that the privateer was still about the river of Porto Novo, on the 19th of July ran in and anchored under the island of Blydones, where his lordship put a lieutenant and sixty men, with two six-pounders, into one of the sloops taken at Vigo, which he sent up the river in quest of the privateer. The sloop could see nothing of her, but in her return she chased a bark on shore and set her on fire. Lord Northesk then landed some of his men, and after burning a village consisting of about forty houses, he repaired to his station.

On the 27th of December the Pulteney privateer, a large brigantine, mounting sixteen carriage-guns and twenty-six swivels, with forty-two men, commanded by Captain James Purcel, was returning to Gibraltar from a cruise in the mouth of the Straits; and, as she was standing in for the bay from the west, with little or no wind, was seen from Old Gibraltar; whence two large Spanish xebèques, each carrying a hundred and twenty men, twelve carriage-guns, and a great number of patteraroes and musketoons, were sent to take

take the Pulteney; and, looking upon her as an easy prey, made haste with their oars, and soon got up with her, a little to the east of Europe-point, and almost within reach of the guns of Gibraltar, the governor of which refused a reinforcement of men, alleging, that it was impossible so small a vessel, even full of men, could escape a force so much superior to her. The brave Captain Purcel, however, resolved to defend his vessel to the last extremity; and, finding his officers and men in the same disposition, prepared for an obstinate resistance. After a few single guns, the Spaniards came near, and hailing the vessel by her name, and the captain by his, entreated him to strike and preserve the lives of his men, otherwise to expect no quarter. These threats were returned with guns: after which the Spaniards attempted to board, and were resolutely beat off; they made two attempts more, but, Captain Purcel prudently reserving half his broadside, they had not courage to board him, though they exposed themselves so much, particularly in the last push, they could stand it no longer, and made off with their oars towards Malaga, having lost above one hundred of their men. The engagement lasted an hour and three quarters, the Pulteney having but one man killed and five more dangerously wounded; though, what is a very remarkable circumstance, every man on-board was shot through his clothes, the sails and rigging were all cut to pieces, and some nine-pounders went through the hull and masts. It falling calm after the engagement, the Pulteney was towed round by several boats which came from Gibraltar; and the garrison had such a high sense of the merit of this action, that the governor, officers, and principal inhabitants, contributed for a large piece of plate as a present to the captain with a suitable inscription, and gave a handsome reward to the sailors for their bravery.

These were the most important actions, in which the commanders of British ships this year distinguished them-

themselves in the European seas. In the mean time, the government shewed a regard for the protection of their seamen, and also their resolution not to suffer any officer of the royal navy to escape with impunity either for a neglect of duty, or ill treatment of their men. For in May a cartel was settled with the court of Madrid for the exchange of prisoners; in pursuance of which above six hundred English seamen were released from St. Sebastian's, and a considerable number exchanged at Gibraltar. Sir Yelverton Peyton, captain of the *Hector* man of war, and Captain Fanshaw, commander of the *Phoenix*, having returned from their stations at Virginia and South Carolina, and complaints having been made about their conduct there, a court-martial was appointed to try them, which on the 9th of June was held by Admiral Cavendish, on-board the *St. George*, at Spithead, when the court adjudged Sir Yelverton to be dismissed for ever serving in the royal navy, and mulcted Captain Fanshaw six months pay for the use of the chest at Chatham. And on the 19th of August the same admiral held another court-martial at Spithead on the captain of the *Superbe*, who was cashiered and rendered incapable of serving again, for ill treatment to his officers, and inhuman cruelty to his men.

Such were the operations in Europe during the year 1743. Let us now follow the British fleet in its operations in the West-Indies; where, after the disgraceful retreat from Cuba, it rendezvoused at Jamaica. In January a reinforcement of two thousand marines arrived from Europe; also the *Greenwich*, *St. Alban's*, and the *Fox* man of war; upon which the admiral and general, although their animosities were nothing abated, formed a plan for a fresh expedition, in concert with Governor Trelawney, who agreed to accompany them therein. Their design was to disembark the troops at Porto Bello, and march across the isthmus of Darien, to attack the rich town
of

of Panama. Two months elapsed after this resolution was taken before the troops were all embarked, and the transports ready to sail. On the 9th of March the whole fleet left Jamaica, and arrived at the place of their destination on the 28th. The fleet consisted of eight sail of the line, three fire-ships, and two hospital-ships, together with forty transports, on-board of which were three thousand land-forces; besides five hundred negroes raised by the governor. The Spanish forces at Porto Bello, immediately on the arrival of this armament, made a precipitate retreat to Panama, without attempting to oppose their landing; but instead of debarking the troops, a council of war composed of land-officers was called, in which it was resolved, that, as the troops were sickly, the rainy season begun, and several of the transports not yet arrived, the design against Panama was rendered impracticable. Another motive for forming this resolution was, advice which had been received that the garrison of Panama had been greatly strengthened by fresh troops poured in. In pursuance of this determination, in which the admiral and sea-officers bore no part, the fleet returned to Jamaica, to the utter disgrace of those who planned the enterprize, and of those who abandoned it without making a single effort to carry it into effect.—In August, Captain Cusack, in the *Litchfield*, of fifty guns, was sent from Jamaica, with about three hundred soldiers, to the small island of Rattan in the bay of Honduras, of which he took possession.

In the latter end of September, Captain Fowke, in the *Gibraltar* man of war, arrived at Jamaica, with dispatches from the Duke of Newcastle, in which both the admiral and general were recalled, and directed to bring home with them such troops as remained alive, which did not amount to a tenth part of the number which had been sent abroad in that inglorious service. The inferior officers fell ignobly by sickness and despair, without having an opportunity
allowed

allowed them of signalizing their courage; and the commanders lived to feel the scorn and reproach of their country.

In the month of June the new colony of Georgia was invaded by an armament from St. Augustine, commanded by Don Martinel de Monteano, governor of that fortress. It consisted of thirty-six ships, from which four thousand men were landed at St. Simon's, and began their march for Frederica. General Oglethorpe, with a handful of men, took such wise precautions for opposing their progress, and harraised them in their march with such activity and resolution, that after two of their detachments had been defeated, they retired to their ships, and totally abandoned the enterprize.

In May, two English frigates, commanded by the Captains Smith and Stuart, fell in with three Spanish men of war near the island of St. Christopher's. An engagement ensued, which was maintained with great spirit until night, by the favour of which the Spaniards retired to Porto Rico, having been much shattered in the conflict. In the month of September the Tilbury ship of war, of sixty guns, was accidentally set on fire and destroyed off the island of Hispaniola; on which occasion one hundred and twenty-seven men perished, the rest were saved by Captain Hoare, of the Defiance, who happened to be on the same cruise.

The government, sensible of the disadvantages attending a command divided between the land and sea-officers, at the same time that they invested Sir Chaloner Ogle with the command of the fleet in the West-Indies, gave him absolute authority over the marine forces.

In England, the merchants still complained that their commerce was not properly protected, and the people clamoured against the conduct of the war. They said their burdens were increased to maintain quarrels with which they had no concern; to defray

the enormous expence of inactive fleets and pacific armies. Lord C. had by this time insinuated himself into the confidence of his sovereign, and engrossed the whole direction of public affairs. The war with Spain was now become a secondary consideration, and neglected accordingly; while the chief attention of the new minister was turned upon the affairs of the continent. The dispute with Spain concerned Britain only. The interests of Hanover were connected with the troubles of the empire. By pursuing this object, he soothed the wishes of his master, and opened a more ample field for his own ambition. He had studied the policy of the continent with peculiar eagerness. This was the favourite subject of his reflection, upon which he thought and spoke with a degree of enthusiasm. The intolerable taxes, the poverty, the ruined commerce, of his country, the iniquity of standing armies, votes of credit, and foreign connexions, upon which he had so often expatiated, were now forgotten, or overlooked. He saw nothing but glory, conquest, and acquired dominion. He set the power of France at defiance: and, as if Great Britain had felt no distress, but teemed with treasure which she could not otherwise employ, he poured forth her millions with a rash and desperate hand, in purchasing beggarly allies, and maintaining mercenary armies.

The parliament met on the 16th of November, when his majesty told them, that he had augmented the British forces in the Low Countries with sixteen thousand Hanoverians and the Hessian auxiliaries, in order to form such a force, in conjunction with the Austrian troops, as might be of service to the common cause, at all events. He extolled the magnanimity and fortitude of the Queen of Hungary, as well as the resolute conduct of the King of Sardinia, and that prince's strict adherence to his engagements, though attacked in his own dominions. He mentioned

tioned the requisition made by Sweden, of his good offices for procuring a peace between that nation and Russia; the defensive alliances which he had concluded with the czarina, and with the King of Prussia, as events which could not have been expected, if Great Britain had not manifested a seasonable spirit and vigour, in defence and assistance of her ancient allies, and in maintaining the liberties of Europe.

When the house of lords took into consideration the several estimates of the expence occasioned by the forces in the pay of Great Britain, Earl Stanhope, at the close of an elegant speech, moved for an address, to beseech and advise his majesty, that, in compassion to his people, loaded already with such numerous and heavy taxes, such large and growing debts, and greater annual expences than the nation at any time before had ever sustained, he would exonerate his subjects of the charge and burthen of those mercenaries who were taken into the service last year, without the advice or consent of parliament. The motion was supported by the Earl of Sandwich, who took occasion to speak with great contempt of Hanover, and, in mentioning the royal family, seemed to forget that decorum which the nature of the subject required. He had, indeed, reason to talk with asperity on the contract by which the Hanoverians had been taken into the pay of Great Britain. Levy-money was charged to the account, though they were engaged for one year only, and though not a single regiment had been raised on this occasion: they had been levied for the security of the electorate; and would have been maintained if England had never engaged in the affairs of the continent. The Duke of Bedford enlarged upon the same subject. He said it had been suspected, nor was the suspicion without foundation, that the measures of the English ministry had long been regulated by the interest of his majesty's elec-

toral territories: that these had been long considered as a gulf into which the treasures of Great Britain had been thrown: that the state of Hanover had been changed, without any visible cause, since the accession of its princes to the throne of England: affluence had begun to wanton in their towns, and gold to glitter in their cottages, without the discovery of mines, or the increase of their commerce; and new dominions had been purchased, of which the value was never paid from the revenues of Hanover. The motion was hunted down by the new minister, the patriot Lord Bathurst, and the Earl of Bath, which last nobleman declared, that he considered it as an act of cowardice and meanness, to fall passively down the stream of popularity, to suffer his reason and integrity to be overborne by the noise of vulgar clamours, which had been raised against the measures of government by the low arts of exaggeration, fallacious reasonings, and partial representations. This is the very language which Sir Robert Walpole had often used against Mr. Pulteney and his confederates in the house of commons. The associates of the new secretary pleaded the cause of Hanover, and insisted upon the necessity of a land war against France, with all the vehemence of declamation. Their suggestions were answered; their conduct was severely stigmatized by the Earl of Chesterfield, who observed, that the assembling an army in Flanders, without the concurrence of the states-general, or any other power engaged by treaty, or bound by interest, to support the Queen of Hungary, was a rash and ridiculous measure: the taking sixteen thousand Hanoverians into British pay, without consulting the parliament, seemed highly derogatory to the rights and dignity of the great council of the nation, and a very dangerous precedent to future times: that while Great Britain exhausted herself almost to ruin, in pursuance of schemes founded on engagements to the Queen of Hungary, the
electorate

electorate of Hanover, though under the same engagements, and governed by the same prince, did not appear to contribute any thing as an ally to her assistance, but was paid by Great Britain for all the forces it had sent into the field, at a very exorbitant price: that nothing could be more absurd and iniquitous than to hire these mercenaries, while a numerous army lay inactive at home, and the nation groaned under such intolerable burthens. “It may be proper (added he) to repeat what may be forgotten in the multitude of other objects, that this nation, after having exalted the Elector of Hanover from a state of obscurity to the crown, is condemned to hire the troops of that electorate to fight their own cause: to hire them at a rate which was never known before; and to pay levy-money for them, though it is known to all Europe that they were not raised for this occasion.” All the partisans of the old ministry joined in the opposition to Earl Stanhope’s motion, which was rejected by the majority. Then the Earl of Scarborough moved for an address, to approve of the measures which had been taken on the continent; and this was likewise carried by dint of numbers. It was not, however, a very eligible victory: what they gained in parliament they lost with the people. The new ministers became more odious than their predecessors; and people began to think that public virtue was an empty name.

At this period the Queen of Hungary seemed to triumph over all her enemies. The French were driven out of Bohemia and part of the Upper Palatinate; and their forces under Marshal Broglio were posted on the Danube. Prince Charles of Lorraine, at the head of the Austrian army, entered Bavaria; and in April obtained a victory over a body of Bavarians at Braunau: at the same time, three bodies of Croats penetrating through the passes of the Tyroleze, ravaged the whole country to the very gates of

of Munich. The emperor pressed the French general to hazard a battle; but he refused to run this risque, though he had received a strong reinforcement from France. His imperial majesty, thinking himself unsafe in Munich, retired to Augsburg: Marshal Seckendorff retreated with the Bavarian troops to Ingoldstadt, where he was afterwards joined by Marshal Broglio, whose troops had, in this retreat, been pursued and terribly harrassed by the Austrian cavalry and hussars. Prince Charles had opened a free communication with Munich, which now for the third time fell into the hands of the Queen of Hungary. Her arms likewise reduced Friedberg and Landsperg, while Prince Charles continued to pursue the French to Donawert, where they were joined by twelve thousand men from the Rhine. Broglio still avoided an engagement, and retreated before the enemy to Hailbron. The emperor, being thus abandoned by his allies, and stripped of all his dominions, repaired to Franckfort, where he lived in indigence and obscurity. He now made advances towards an accommodation with the Queen of Hungary. His general, Seckendorff, had an interview with Count Khevenhuller at the convent of Lowerconfield, where a convention was signed. This treaty imported, that the emperor should remain neuter during the continuance of the present war; and, that his troops should be quartered in Franconia: that the Queen of Hungary should keep possession of Bavaria till the peace: that Braunau and Scarding should be delivered up to the Austrians: that the French garrison of Ingoldstadt should be permitted to withdraw, and be replaced by Bavarians; but that the Austrian generals should be put in possession of all the artillery, magazines, and warlike stores belonging to the French, which should be found in the place.—The governors of Egra and Ingoldstadt refusing to acquiesce in the capitulation, the Austrians had recourse to the operations.

rations of war; and both places were reduced. In Ingoldstadt they found all the emperor's domestic treasure, jewels, plate, pictures, cabinets, and curiosities, with the archives of the house of Bavaria, the most valuable effects belonging to the nobility of that electorate, a prodigious train of artillery, and a vast quantity of provisions, arms, and ammunition.

The French king, baffled in all the efforts he had hitherto made for the support of the emperor, ordered his minister at Franckfort to deliver a declaration to the diet, professing himself extremely well pleased to hear they intended to interpose their mediation for terminating the war. He said, he was no less satisfied with the treaty of neutrality which the emperor had concluded with the Queen of Hungary; an event of which he was no sooner informed, than he had ordered his troops to return to the frontiers of his dominions, that the Germanic body might be convinced of his equity and moderation. To this declaration the Queen of Hungary answered in a rescript, that the design of France was to embarrass her affairs, and deprive her of the assistance of her allies: that the Elector of Bavaria could not be considered as a neutral party in his own cause: that the mediation of the empire could only produce a peace either with or without the concurrence of France: that in the former case no solid peace could be expected; in the latter, it was easy to foresee, that France would pay no regard to a peace in which she should have no concern. She affirmed, that the aim of the French king was solely to gain time to repair his losses, that he might afterwards revive the troubles of the empire. The Elector of Mentz, who had favoured the emperor, was now dead, and his successor inclined to the Austrian interest. He allowed this rescript to be entered in the journal of the diet, together with the protests which had been made when the vote of Bohemia was suppressed in the late election. The emperor complained

complained in a circular letter of this transaction, as a stroke levelled at his imperial dignity; and it gave rise to a warm dispute among the members of the Germanic body. Several princes resented the haughty conduct, and began to be alarmed at the success, of the house of Austria; while others pitied the deplorable situation of the emperor. The Kings of Great Britain and Prussia, as Electors of Hanover and Brandenburg, espoused opposite sides in this contest. His Prussian majesty protested against the investiture of the duchy of Saxe Lawenburgh, claimed by the King of Great Britain: he had an interview with General Seckendorff at Anspach; and was said to have privately visited the emperor at Frankfort.

The troops which the King of Great Britain had assembled in the Netherlands began their march for the Rhine in the latter end of February; and in May they encamped near Hoech on the river Mayne, under the command of the Earl of Stair. This nobleman sent Major-general Bland to Franckfort, with a compliment to the emperor, assuring him, in the name of his Britannic majesty, that the respect owing to his dignity should not be violated, nor the place of his residence disturbed. Notwithstanding this assurance, the emperor retired to Munich, though he was afterwards compelled to return, by the success of the Austrians in Bavaria. The French king, in order to prevent the junction of the British forces with Prince Charles of Lorraine, ordered Marshal Noailles to assemble sixty thousand men upon the Mayne; while Coigny was sent into Alsace with a numerous army, to defend that province, and oppose Prince Charles, should he attempt to pass the Rhine. Noailles, having secured the towns of Spire, Worms, and Oppenheim, passed the Rhine in the beginning of June, and posted himself on the east side of that river, above Franckfort. The Earl of Stair advanced towards him, and encamped at Killenbach, between the river
Mayne

Mayne and the forest of Darmstadt: from this situation he made a motion to Aschaffenburg, with a view to secure the navigation of the Upper Mayne; but he was anticipated by the enemy, who lay on the other side of the river, and had taken possession of the posts above, so as to intercept all supplies. They were posted on the other side of the river, opposite to the allies, whose camp they overlooked; and, they found means, by their parties and other precautions, to cut off the communication by water between Frankfort and the confederates.

The Duke of Cumberland had already come to make his first campaign, and the king himself arrived in the camp on the 9th of June. He found his army, amounting to about forty thousand men, in danger of starving: he received intelligence that a reinforcement of twelve thousand Hanoverians and Hessians had reached Hanau; and he resolved to march thither, both with a view to effect the junction, and to procure provision for his forces. With this view he decamped on the 26th of June. He had no sooner quitted Aschaffenburg, than it was seized by the French general: he had not marched above three leagues, when he perceived the enemy, to the number of thirty thousand, had passed the river farther down, at Selingenstadt, and were drawn up in order of battle at the village of Dettingen, to dispute his passage. Thus he found himself cooped up in a very dangerous situation. The enemy had possessed themselves of Aschaffenburg behind, so as to prevent his retreat: his troops were confined in a narrow plain, bounded by hills and woods on the right, flanked on the left by the river Mayne, on the opposite side of which the French had erected batteries, that annoyed the allies on their march: in the front a considerable part of the French army was drawn up, with a narrow pass before them, the village of Dettingen on their right, a wood on their left, and a morass in the centre. Thus environed,

the confederates must either have fought at a very great disadvantage, or surrendered themselves prisoners of war, had not the Duke de Gramont, who commanded the enemy, been instigated by the spirit of madness to forego these advantages. He passed the defile, and, advancing towards the allies, a battle ensued. The French horse charged with great impetuosity, and some regiments of British cavalry were put in disorder: but the infantry of the allies behaved with such intrepidity and deliberation, under the eye of their sovereign, as soon determined the fate of the day: the French were obliged to give way, and repass the Mayne with great precipitation, having lost about five thousand men, killed, wounded, or taken. Had they been properly pursued before they recollected themselves from their first confusion, in all probability they would have sustained a total overthrow. The Earl of Stair proposed that a body of cavalry should be detached on this service; but his advice was overruled. The loss of the allies in this action amounted to two thousand men. Generals Clayton and Monroy were killed: the Duke of Cumberland, who exhibited uncommon proofs of courage, was shot through the calf of the leg: the Earl of Albemarle, General Huske, and several other officers of distinction, were wounded. The king exposed his person to a severe fire of cannon as well as musquetry; he rode between the first and second lines with his sword drawn, and encouraged the troops to fight for the honour of England. Immediately after the action he continued his march to Hanau, where he was joined by the reinforcement. The Earl of Stair sent a trumpet to Marshal Noailles, recommending to his protection the sick and wounded that were left on the field of battle; and these the French general treated with great care and tenderness: such generosity softens the rigours of war, and does honour to humanity.

The two armies continued on different sides of the
river

river till the 12th of July, when the French general receiving intelligence that Prince Charles of Lorraine had approached the Neckar, he suddenly retired, and repassed the Rhine, between Worms and Oppenheim. The King of Great Britain was visited by Prince Charles and Count Khevenhuller, at Hanau, where the future operations of the campaign were regulated. On the 27th of August the allied army passed the Rhine at Mentz, and the king fixed his head-quarters in the episcopal palace at Worms. Here the forces lay encamped till the latter end of September, when they advanced to Spire, where they were joined by twenty thousand Dutch auxiliaries from the Netherlands. Marshal Noailles having retreated into Upper Alsace, the allies took possession of Germerheim, and demolished the entrenchments which the enemy had raised on the Queich; then they returned to Mentz, and, in October, were distributed into winter-quarters, after an inactive campaign that redounded very little to the honour of those by whom the motions of the army were conducted. In September a treaty had been concluded at Worms, between his Britannic majesty, the King of Sardinia, and the Queen of Hungary. She engaged to maintain thirty thousand men in Italy: the King of Sardinia obliged himself to employ forty thousand infantry and five thousand horse, in consideration of his commanding the combined army, and receiving an annual subsidy of two hundred thousand pounds from Great Britain. As a further gratification the queen yielded to him the city of Placentia, with several districts in the duchy of Pavia, and in the Novarese; and all her right and pretensions to Final, at present possessed by the republic of Genoa, which, they hoped, would give it up, on being repaid the purchase-money, amounting to three hundred thousand pounds. This sum the King of England promised to disburse; and, moreover, to maintain a strong squadron in the Mediterranean, the com-

mander of which should act in concert with his Sardinian majesty. Finally, the contracting powers agreed, that Final should be constituted a free-port, like that of Leghorn. Nothing could be more unjust than this treaty, by which the Genoese were negotiated out of their property. They had purchased the marquissate of Final of the late emperor, for a valuable consideration, and the purchase had been guaranteed by Great Britain. It could not, therefore, be expected that they would part with this acquisition to a prince whose power they thought already too formidable; especially, on condition of its being made a free-port, to the prejudice of their own commerce. They presented remonstrances against this article, by their ministers at the courts of London, Vienna, and Turin; and, as very little regard was paid to their representations, they threw themselves into the arms of France and Spain for protection.

After the battle of Dettingen, Colonel Mentzel, at the head of a large body of irregulars, belonging to the Queen of Hungary, made an irruption into Lorraine, part of which they ravaged without mercy. In September, Prince Charles, with the Austrian army, entered the Brisgaw, and attempted to pass the Rhine; but Marshal Coigny had taken such precautions for guarding it on the other side, that he was obliged to abandon his design, and, marching back into the Upper Palatinate, quartered his troops in that country, and in Bavaria. By this time the Earl of Stair had solicited and obtained leave to resign his command. He had for some time thought himself neglected; and was unwilling that his reputation should suffer on account of measures in which he had no concern. In October the King of Great Britain returned to Hanover, and the army separated. The troops in British pay marched back to the Netherlands, and the rest took their route to their respective countries.

In the month of February, 1743, Sir Chaloner Ogle,

Ogle, who then lay in Port Royal, Jamaica, with his fleet, appointed Captain Knowles, of the Suffolk, a seventy-gun ship, to take under his command the Burford of seventy guns, the Assistance, Norwich, and Advice, of fifty guns, the Scarborough of twenty guns, and three sloops, and proceed to Antigua, where he was to be joined by the Eltham of forty guns, and the Lively of twenty, and with this squadron make an attempt on La Guira and Porto Cavallo, two Spanish fortresses on the Caracco coast of South America. Commodore Knowles, with these eight men of war, and three sloops, having two thousand three hundred sailors and marines, with four hundred of Dalzell's regiment on-board, sailed from Antigua on the 12th of February, and, after touching at St. Christopher's, proceeded to La Guira. But the governor of the Caraccas, having received intelligence of this expedition almost two months before, had neglected nothing that tended to his security, by erecting new batteries, and augmenting the garrisons with a numerous body of Indians, mulattoes, and negroes; besides, he had prevailed on the Dutch governor of Curaçoa, an island of the Antilles, to supply him with a considerable quantity of ammunition.

On the 18th of February, the English commander, having arrived with his squadron in sight of La Guira, began the attack about noon, which was carried on with great vigour, and met with an equally warm resistance. By reason of the great swell, the ships could not approach nearer the town than within a mile of it, which rendered it impracticable to land the soldiers, but all the ships behaved with great resolution. At the beginning of the attack the Spanish flag was shot down, but soon hoisted again; some considerable breaches were made in the fortifications, the churches were entirely demolished, and a great number of houses destroyed. Only three ships were in the harbour, for cutting which out, or setting them on fire, some

some boats were manned from the squadron, but could not succeed. The attack continued till almost eight at night, and, though the Spanish magazine blew up, yet the darkness of the night put an end to the engagement. The Burford, Norwich, Eltham, and Assistance, being entirely disabled from keeping the line of battle, and continuing the attack, were ordered to Curaçoa to refit. The Suffolk received one hundred and forty-six shot, and the other ships were considerably damaged, so that the attempt miscarried, after the loss of one lieutenant, ninety-two men killed, and three hundred and eight wounded; among the latter was Captain Lushington, commander of the Burford, who had his thigh taken off by a chain-shot, and expired at Curaçoa, two hours after he was carried ashore. The Spaniards, however, had little cause for being elated, as their town and fortifications were greatly damaged, with the loss of seven hundred men.

Commodore Knowles, after refitting his squadron at Curaçoa, and being reinforced with some Dutch volunteers, who had been injured by the Spaniards, resolved to make an attack upon Porto Cavallo; though the Spaniards had put the town in a good posture of defence, having about twelve hundred seamen belonging to the ships in the harbour, with three hundred men more, besides four thousand Indians, mulattoes, and blacks. The commodore sailed from Curaçoa, March the 20th; but by reason of a strong lee current, it was the 15th of April before he came under the keys of Barbarat, a little to the eastward of Porto Cavallo. The Spaniards had twelve of their smallest ships, and three galleys, hauled up to the head of the harbour out of gun-shot, with one of sixty, and another of forty, moored close over to the other shore: one ship was laid across the channel in the mouth of the harbour, ready to be sunk, with a chain from the castle to the stern, and another from

from her head to the main, where had lately been erected three fascine batteries of a considerable length. On a low point called Ponta Brava were two more batteries, one of twelve, and the other of seven, guns. But the commodore, perceiving that they might easily be flanked, thought it would be no difficult matter to make himself master of the batteries, the guns of which might then be turned against the castle. Accordingly it was agreed in a general council held next morning, to send in two ships in the afternoon to cannonade the batteries, and then land the volunteers, with about four hundred seamen, the detachment of Dalzell's, all the marines, with the Dutch, to take possession of them after being silenced, their retreat being secured by the Assistance, which lay within pistol-shot of the shore. The Lively and Eltham that were sent in to cannonade the batteries, silenced them about sun-set, and by dark the firing ceased on both sides: when the forces, consisting of twelve hundred men, landed, under the command of Major Lucas; and on their march along a beach, the commodore accompanied them in his boat. About eleven the van seized one of the fascine batteries; but the Spanish sentinel, firing his piece, alarmed the garrison and the other batteries, on which two guns fired from the latter, put the forces into disorder, who, not observing the proper watch-word, fired at one another. This put them in such confusion, that their officers calling out to cast off their muskets, stoop and run; they did so with the utmost precipitation, each man taking his comrade for a Spaniard; nor did they recover from this shameful fright till they found themselves safe on-board. On the 21st, in a general consultation, after considering the late miscarriage, it was resolved to form one general attack with the ships and forces against the castle and the fascine batteries. In pursuance of this resolution, on the 24th in the forenoon, a small breeze springing

up,

up, the commodore weighed and run down in the following order: the Assistance, Burford, Suffolk, and Norwich, to batter the castle; and the Scarborough, Lively, and Eltham, against the two fascine batteries. They began cannonading about eleven, and continued till past nine at night, with great obstinacy on both sides. The Spaniards sometimes slackened their fire; and the English did good execution in dismounting their guns, beating several embrasures into one, and silencing the fascine batteries. But, night coming on, their fire was brisker and did more mischief, whereupon, some of the ships having expended all, and others most of their ammunition, with their masts and rigging shattered, the commodore made the signal to cut, and, after the loss of two hundred men, anchored about a random shot distance. During the cannonading, the Spaniards sunk the ship in the mouth of the harbour, which stopped up the channel. Next morning the squadron got under the keys of Barbarat to refit, and in the evening was joined by the Advice, which had parted company three days after sailing from Curaçoa. On the 28th, in a general council, it was agreed that the squadron was no longer in a condition to undertake any enterprise against the Spaniards; upon which, after sending away the station ships, and an exchange of prisoners with the governor of Porto Cavallo, the commodore returned to Jamaica.

The British and Spanish squadrons remained for the rest of the year inactive in the ports of Cuba and Jamaica; though our cruizers and privateers were successful in making a considerable number of prizes. Among these, the San Joseph le Desiderio, a register-ship, computed by the Spaniards to be worth one hundred thousand pounds, was taken, April the 17th, by Captain Tucker, in the Fowey man of war, cruizing off cape Corientes. On the 19th of June, Lord Bamff, in the Hastings man of war, on his cruize off the Azores,

Azores, took a French polacre, called *Le St. Jean*, with one million three hundred thousand pieces of eight, registered at Cadiz; and on the 23d of July, a Spanish privateer. Captain Barnaby, in the *Litchfield*, on his cruize off Porto Rico, in the month of September, took and destroyed four Spanish privateers, burnt a sloop in Aguada bay, and demolished a battery of four guns, under which the sloop was at anchor; and afterwards he landed some men with an officer, who spiked up the guns, burnt the carriages and guard-houses, carrying off the colours in sight of a great number of Spaniards, of whom the English killed about two hundred, with the loss of only one man. Some privateers fitted out at St. Christopher's had also been very successful; and the whole loss of the Spaniards this year in America, was computed at no less than ninety-five vessels, a great number of which were considerable prizes.

As the French were getting ready a considerable armament at Brest, a fleet of twelve men of war was ordered in the summer to rendezvous at Spithead, under Sir John Norris, who, as no intelligence was received of the French fleet being in readiness, did not take the command till the beginning of next year, when being augmented, proceeded to prevent the meditated invasion from Dunkirk.

In the Mediterranean, our naval affairs were in much the same situation as at the close of the preceding year, the fleet under Admiral Matthews remaining still at the isles of Hieres, to prevent the French and Spanish fleet getting out of Toulon. While Matthews lay here, some of his sailors, on the 10th of April, going on shore for refreshments to the town of Hieres, the French garrison refused them entrance, on which a scuffle ensued. The governor of Provence sent a reinforcement of six hundred men; and, as the English were assisted by the fleet, the fray did not end before thirty French and one hundred and twenty English were killed.

About the end of June, Admiral Matthews, understanding that fourteen xebecs, laden with artillery and ammunition for the Spanish army, had arrived at Genoa, sailed thither from the road of Hieres, and demanded of the republic that they would either oblige these vessels, with the stores, to quit their harbour, or sequester their lading until a general peace should be established. After some dispute, it was agreed that the cannon and stores should be deposited in the castle of Bonifacio, situated on a rock at the south end of Corsica; and, that the xebecs should have leave to retire without molestation. The Corsicans had some years before revolted, and shaken off the dominion of the Genoese, under which their island had remained for many centuries. They found themselves oppressed, and resolved to assert their freedom. They conferred the sovereign authority on a German adventurer, who was solemnly proclaimed by the name of King Theodore. He had supplied them with some arms and ammunition, which he had brought from Tunis, and amused them with promises of being assisted by foreign powers in retrieving their independency: but, as these promises were not performed, they treated him so roughly, that he had thought proper to quit the island, and they submitted again to their old masters. The troubles of Corsica were now revived. Theodore revisited his kingdom, and was recognized by the principal chiefs of the island. He published a manifesto: he granted a general pardon to all his subjects who should return to their obedience: he pretended to be countenanced and supported by the King of Great Britain and the Queen of Hungary. He was certainly thought a proper instrument to perplex and harass the Genoese, and supplied at this juncture with a sum of money to purchase arms for the Corsicans: but a change soon happened in the British ministry, and then he was suffered to relapse into his original obscurity. Admiral Matthews, though he did not undertake any expedition

dition of importance against the maritime towns of Spain, continued to assert the British empire at sea through the whole extent of the Mediterranean. The Spanish army under Don Philip was no sooner in motion, than the English admiral ordered some troops and cannon to be disembarked for the security of Villa-Franca. Some stores having been landed at Civita-Vecchia, for the use of the Spanish forces under Count Gages, Matthews interpreted this transaction into a violation of the neutrality which the pope had professed; and sent thither a squadron to bombard the place. The city of Rome was filled with consternation; and the pope had recourse to the good offices of his Sardinian majesty, in consequence of which the English squadron was ordered to withdraw. The captains of single cruising ships, by their activity and vigilance, wholly interrupted the commerce of Spain; cannonaded and burned some towns on the sea-side; and kept the whole coast in continual alarm.

On the continent of America, the operations of the war were very inconsiderable. General Oglethorpe, having received intelligence, that the Spaniards prepared for another invasion from St. Augustine, assembled a body of Indians, as a reinforcement to part of his own regiment, with the highlanders and rangers, and in the spring began his march, in order to anticipate the enemy. He encamped for some time in the neighbourhood of St. Augustine, by way of defiance; but they did not think proper to hazard an engagement; and, as he was in no condition to undertake a siege, he returned to Georgia. In October, the Princess Louisa, youngest daughter of his Britannic majesty, was married by proxy, at Hanover, to the Prince Royal of Denmark, who met her at Altena, and conducted her to Copenhagen.

The parliament met in the beginning of December, 1743. The house of commons voted six millions and a half for the service of the year 1744, be-

sive three millions and a half paid to the sinking-fund in perpetual taxes; so that the year's supplies amounted to ten millions. The funds established for the annual charge were the land and malt taxes; one million paid by the East-India company for a renewal of their charter; one million two hundred thousand pounds by annuities; one million from the sinking-fund; six-and-thirty thousand pounds from the tonnage; and six hundred thousand pounds by a lottery.

At this time party contentions were carried on with such violence, that the French ministry concluded the nation to be ripe for a revolt; and this opinion was corroborated by the assertions of the Jacobites, whose strong prejudices, and warm imaginations, made them see every thing through the medium of passion and party; whence they informed the court of Versailles, that if the Chevalier de St. George, or his eldest son Charles Edward should appear at the head of a French army in Great Britain, a revolution in his favour would instantly follow. This intimation was agreeable to Cardinal Tencin, who, upon the death of Cardinal Fleury, which happened this year, had become prime-minister of France. He was of a violent enterprising temper. He had been recommended to the purple by the Chevalier de St. George, and was seemingly attached to the Stuart family. His ambition was flattered with the prospect of giving a king to Great Britain; of performing such eminent service to his benefactor, and of restoring to the throne of their ancestors, a family connected by the ties of blood with all the greatest princes of Europe. The ministry of France foresaw, that even if this aim should miscarry, a descent upon Great Britain would make a considerable diversion from the continent in favour of France, and embroil and embarrass his Britannic majesty, who was the chief support of the house of Austria and all its allies. Actuated by these motives, he concerted measures with the Chevalier de St. George, at Rome, who, being

too

too much advanced in years to engage personally in such an expedition, agreed to delegate his pretensions and authority to his son Charles, a youth of promising talents, secret, brave, and enterprising, amiable in his person, grave, and even reserved, in his deportment. He approved himself in the sequel, composed and moderate in success, wonderfully firm in adversity; and, though tenderly nursed in all the delights of an effeminate country and gentle climate, patient almost beyond belief of cold, hunger, and fatigue. Such was the adventurer now destined to fulfil the hopes which the French ministry had conceived, from the projected invasion of Great Britain.

Count Saxe was appointed by the French king commander of the troops designed for this expedition, which amounted to fifteen thousand men. They began their march to Picardy, and a great number of vessels was assembled for their embarkation, at Dunkirk, Calais, and Boulogne. It was determined that they should be landed in Kent, under convoy of a strong squadron equipped at Brest, and commanded by Monsieur de Roquefeuille, an officer of experience and capacity. The Chevalier de St. George is said to have required the personal service of the Duke of Ormond, who excused himself on account of his advanced age.

Prince Charles departed from Rome about the end of December, in the disguise of a Spanish courier, attended by one servant only, and furnished with passports by Cardinal Aquaviva. He travelled through Tuscany to Genoa, from whence he proceeded to Savona, where he embarked for Antibes, and prosecuting his journey to Paris, was indulged with a private audience of the French king: then he set out incognito for the coast of Picardy. The British ministry, being apprised of his arrival in France, at once comprehended the destination of the armaments prepared at Brest and Boulogne. Mr. Thompson, the English resident at Paris, received orders to make a remonstrance to the French

French ministry, on the violation of those treaties by which the pretender to the crown of Great Britain was excluded from the territories of France. But he was given to understand, that his most christian majesty would not explain himself on that subject, until the King of England should have given satisfaction on the repeated complaints which had been made to him, touching the infractions of those very treaties which had been so often violated by his orders.

In the month of January M. de Roquefeuille sailed from Brest, directing his course up the English channel, with twenty ships of war. They were immediately discovered by an English cruiser, which ran into Plymouth; and the intelligence was conveyed by land to the board of Admiralty. Sir John Norris was forthwith ordered to take the command of the squadron at Spithead, with which he sailed round to the Downs, where he was joined by some ships of the line from Chatham, and then he found himself at the head of a squadron considerably stronger than that of the enemy. Several regiments marched to the southern coast of England: all governors and commanders were ordered to repair immediately to their respective posts: the forts at the mouth of the Thames and Medway were put in a posture of defence; and directions were issued to assemble the Kentish militia, to defend the coast in case of an invasion. On the 15th of February, 1744, the king sent a message to both houses of parliament, intimating the arrival of the pretender's son in France, the preparations at Dunkirk, and the appearance of a French fleet in the English channel. They joined in an address, declaring their indignation and abhorrence of the design formed in favour of a popish pretender; and, assuring his majesty, that they would, with the warmest zeal and unanimity, take such measures as would enable him to frustrate and defeat so desperate and insolent an attempt. - Addresses of the same kind were presented by the city of London, both universities,

ties, the principal towns of Great Britain, the clergy, the dissenting ministers, the quakers, and almost all the corporations and communities of the kingdom. A requisition was made of the six thousand auxiliaries, which the states-general were obliged to furnish on such occasions, and these were granted with great alacrity and expedition. The Earl of Stair, forgetting his wrongs, took this opportunity of offering his services to government, and was re-invested with the chief command of the forces in Great Britain. His example was followed by several noblemen of the first rank. The Duke of Montague was permitted to raise a regiment of horse; and orders were sent to bring over six thousand of the British troops from Flanders, in case the invasion should actually take place. His majesty was, in another address from parliament, exhorted to augment his forces by sea and land: the habeas corpus act was suspended for six months, and several persons of distinction were apprehended on suspicion of treasonable practices: a proclamation was issued for putting the laws in execution against papists and nonjurors, who were commanded to retire ten miles from London; and every precaution was taken which seemed necessary for the preservation of the public tranquillity.

Meanwhile the French court proceeded with their preparations at Boulogne and Dunkirk, under the eye of the young pretender, and seven thousand men were actually embarked. M. de Roquefeuille sailed up the channel as far as Dungeness, a promontory on the coast of Kent, after having detached M. de Barreil with five ships to hasten the embarkation at Dunkirk. While the French admiral anchored off Dungeness, he perceived, on the 24th of February, the British fleet, under Sir John Norris, doubling the south foreland from the Downs: and, though the wind was against him, taking the opportunity of the tide to come up and engage the French squadron. Roquefeuille, who little expected such a visit, could not be altogether composed, considering

considering the great superiority of his enemies : but the tide failing, the English admiral was obliged to anchor two leagues short of the enemy. In this interval M. de Roquefeuille called a council of war, in which it was determined to avoid an engagement, weigh anchor at sun-set, and make the best of their way to the place from whence they had set sail. This resolution was favoured by a very hard gale of wind, which began to blow from the north-east, and carried them down the channel with incredible expedition. But the same storm, which, in all probability, saved their fleet from destruction, utterly disconcerted the design of invading England. A great number of transports were driven ashore and destroyed, and the rest were so damaged that they could not be speedily repaired. The English were now masters at sea, and their coast was so well guarded, that the enterprize could not be prosecuted with any probability of success. The French generals nominated to serve in this expedition returned to Paris, and the young pretender resolved to wait a more favourable opportunity.

The French king no longer preserved any measures with the court of London: the British resident at Paris was given to understand, that a declaration of war must ensue; and this was actually published on the 20th of March. The King of Great Britain was taxed with having dissuaded the court of Vienna from entertaining any thoughts of an accommodation; with having infringed the convention of Hanover; with having exercised piracy on the subjects of France; and with having blocked up the harbour of Toulon. On the 31st of March, a like denunciation of war against France was published at London, amidst the acclamations of the people. In this declaration the French king is charged with having violated his solemn engagements in the guaranty of the pragmatic sanction given by him in the year 1738, in consideration of the cession of Lorraine: with having given encouragement
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and support to the Spaniards whilst at war with Great Britain, contrary to every principle of good faith; and with having concerted measures with Spain for attacking a principal settlement possessed by the English in America, the fullest proof of which was obtained by a duplicate of the order, dated the 7th of October, 1740, having fallen into the hands of the commander in chief of the British fleet in the West-Indies; whilst, at the same time, the strongest assurances were given by the court of France of their friendly disposition. It farther charges that power with having continued the same offensive conduct in the Mediterranean, in the year 1741, in joining and protecting the ships of Spain, when the English fleet was preparing to attack them; with breach of treaties in repairing the fortifications, and erecting new works at Dunkirk; in admitting the son of the pretender to the crown of Great Britain into the dominions of France: in sending a squadron of French ships into the channel, in order to favour a descent on England: and, it concludes with disavowing all the charges brought against the King of Great Britain in the French declaration.

The chief naval strength of the belligerent powers was collected, as it used to be in former wars, in the Mediterranean. Here Admiral Matthews rode triumphant before Toulon, in which harbour the combined fleets of France and Spain were ignominiously pent up. At length a positive order was sent from the court of France, to their admiral de Court, to put to sea at all events, in order to join a squadron expected from Brest, and even to risk an engagement with the English, if the junction could not be effected without it. Sixteen Spanish men of war lay in the harbour, but the Spaniards had only a sufficient number of sailors and gunners to work twelve. The French fleet consisted of sixteen ships of the line, four frigates, and three fire-ships. M. de Court, the French admiral, at the age of fourscore, enjoyed all the vigour of body and

mind which such a station required. Forty years had elapsed since the sea fight off Malaga, where he had served as captain on-board the admiral's ship, and since that time there had been no general engagement at sea in any part of the world, except that off Messina, in 1718.

On the 10th of February the two contending fleets got under sail, and, being each drawn up in line of battle, advanced to meet the other. The British fleet consisted of forty sail; the French and Spaniards thirty-four: but, as Lestock's division, thirteen ships, did not fight at all, we can reckon our own fleet only as twenty-seven sail.

The English had the advantage of the wind, a circumstance of as much consequence at sea, as an advantageous post is on land. That nation was the first who ranged their naval forces in the order of battle which is now in use, and it is from them that other nations have learned to dispose their fleets into the divisions of van, main, and rear. Matthews was eager to come to action, but de Court chose rather to avoid one, for which purpose he endeavoured to stretch to the southward.

On the 11th at break of day, the combined squadrons having made sail during the night, with little wind easterly, had got somewhat farther off, whilst the English had been driven by the currents between them and Toulon; upon which Admiral Matthews made the signal for bearing down. At this time the English fleet was very much extended, the headmost ship in the van being distant from the sternmost in the rear full three leagues. At half an hour past eleven o'clock at noon, Matthews perceiving the backwardness of his adversary to engage, threw out the signal for a general engagement. By one o'clock the two fleets had neared each other considerably, but the regular arrangement was now inverted. The van of the British fleet was opposed to the centre of the combined fleet; the French van, under Commodore Gabaret, was greatly ahead,
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and Admiral Matthews, with the centre division, was abreast of the Spanish fleet, which composed the rear of the enemy; and Vice-admiral Lestock was greatly astern, and, as there was little wind and a great swell, he had little chance of making way so as to come up with and engage the Spaniards. This was the important moment for attacking the Spanish fleet, and Matthews, being of opinion that the regular form of an attack should be adhered to or departed from according as the public service was likely to be best promoted, bore down upon the Spanish admiral, throwing out the signal for engaging, while that for the line of battle was still displayed, which was a fatal indiscretion, and tended greatly to embarrass those who were to act under these directions. However, though Lestock made no haste to come up with the flying enemy, which it was his unquestionable duty to have done, yet had the intrepidity of Matthews been properly seconded by every ship in his own division, the Spanish fleet might have been as effectually subdued as it was six-and-twenty years before by Sir George Byng.

The admiral in the *Namur*, and Captain Cornwall in the *Marlborough*, singled out the Spanish admiral Navarro, in the *Real*, or *Royal Philip*, and the *Isabella* his second, and very gallantly began the action, within pistol-shot, about half an hour past one o'clock.

At the same time Captain Forbes in the *Norfolk*, bore down, and engaged the *Constant*, the second ahead of Don Navarro; and the *Princessa*, *Somerfet*, *Bedford*, *Dragon*, and *Kingston*, fired at the *Poder*, the ship next ahead of the *Constant*; the *Orient*, *Amerique*, and *Neptune*, the three headmost ships of the *Poder*, exchanged a broadside with the headmost ships of the British centre, and continued their course to the southward with the French squadron, making in all nineteen ships of the line; and the five other Spanish ships were at a considerable distance astern of their admiral, though these ships might have been kept be-

fore the wind by Vice-admiral Lestock, if the necessity so urgent before his eyes could have prevailed on him to conceive himself justified in breaking the line while the signal was unaltered: yet still he kept at a great distance from the line. But about two o'clock Rear-admiral Rowley, and Captain Osborne in the Princess Caroline, got along-side the French admiral, and the Ferme his second, and engaged them for some time; the Berwick and Chichester also fired at the French, but at too great a distance, while the Nassau, Warwick, and Sterling Castle, the three other headmost ships of this division, though there was no signal of direction to the contrary, did not engage, according to the signal abroad, but kept their wind, endeavouring to prevent the French from tacking and doubling upon them, who had so great a superiority, as nineteen against seven, the Kingston and Somerset having got so far ahead as to fall in among the centre. Admiral Rowley continued the engagement against the French admiral with great obstinacy and judgment, assisted most gallantly by Captain Osborne; and, as seven other ships of the French division began to fire, this prevented Admiral de Court tacking his division to the assistance of the Spaniards; neither could Commodore Gabaret do it with the van, without running the hazard of being surrounded by that of the English, which had the wind of them, and kept it with such discretion, as prevented the rest of the French from engaging, and added greatly to the reputation of the commanding officer.

A constant fire was maintained, with great warmth, by the Namur and the Marlborough, against Don Navarro and his second, both of whom behaved with great valour; but the Norfolk, after engaging three quarters of an hour, obliged the Constant to bear away out of the line much disabled; upon which the Spanish admiral and his second astern, notwithstanding their warm work with the Namur and Marlborough, fired some guns at her to bring her back, but to no purpose; for
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she continued to lie to leeward, and never more returned to the engagement. The Norfolk did not think proper to quit the line in pursuit of her, and, having now no antagonist, she lay to windward, having twenty men killed and twenty-five wounded, with her rigging, masts, and yards, considerably shattered. The Namur and Marlborough being just aboard of one another, obliged Admiral Matthews to fill his sails and go ahead, in the heat of the action, though his masts, yards, and rigging, were so much disabled, as to occasion the greatest difficulty in managing the ship, which was encreased by having but little wind with a great swell; and the mizen top sail being handed to prevent the masts and rigging tumbling about their ears, though he reeved new braces three several times; so that he could not give the Marlborough the assistance Captain Cornwall wanted, whose behaviour merited all imaginable applause. Cornwall had lost both his legs by an unfortunate shot; and the Marlborough, at three of the clock, had her main and mizen masts shot by the board, the fall of which killed her heroic commander; nevertheless she was fought bravely by her second lieutenant, (the first lieutenant, who was the captain's nephew, being also killed,) and making good fires upon her opponents, though she had no assistance from her neighbours in the line, which continued lying to windward, and firing at the Spanish ships in the rear, not within gun-shot, though the admiral had sent orders for them to bear down to her assistance. The Real, or Royal Philip, lying disabled with her stern to the Marlborough, her second gone, and the ship astern not yet come up at four o'clock; the Ann galley fireship was ordered to prime with the utmost dispatch, and go down upon the Spanish admiral and burn him: but before she could be got ready the Spanish ships astern passed by Vice-admiral Lestock, who fired a broadside at the sternmost ship, but could not stop her from going ahead, which gave them an opportunity of re-inforcing the

Spanish

Spanish admiral, just as the fireship was approaching the Royal Philip, these ships fired at her all the way she was advancing. The fireship being within a cable's length of the Spanish admiral, was set on fire; but the Spaniards pouring into her bows a great number of shot, immediately sunk her, though she was not her own length at that time from the Royal Philip, and she went down all in a blaze, with Captain Mackey her brave commander, his lieutenant Hilliers, his gunner, and twelve men, whose fate was participated by fifty Spaniards, who had been sent in a launch from the Royal Philip to take her, and, arriving close under her the very moment she blew up, perished in the flames.

About five o'clock, the Marlborough, being dreadfully shattered, and almost torn to pieces, was towed out of the line. The Spaniards fired chiefly at the masts and rigging, by which, although Admiral Matthews engaged the Real within pistol-shot, he had only nine men killed and forty wounded: Captain Ruffel, who commanded the Namur, had his left arm shot off by the first broadside; whilst a dreadful carnage was made on-board the Spanish admiral's ship, notwithstanding which, she maintained the action with unabating spirit. The Dorsetshire, Essex, Rupert, and Royal Oak, very feebly supported their admiral; had they discovered the same alacrity as the Marlborough, the Spanish ships would most probably have been destroyed or taken. During the fiercest part of the action, Admiral Matthews is said to have stood on the quarter-deck, or arms chest, observing with his glass the manœuvres of the enemy, and, although a shot carried away the plank he leant upon, it occasioned no visible change in his countenance or deportment.

Whilst these transactions passed between the centre of the British fleet and the rear of the combined fleet, Admiral Rowley, who commanded the British van, and hoisted his flag on-board the Barfleur, being seconded by the Princess Caroline, Captain Osborne, engaged

engaged the French admiral and his second for three glasses, during which time the conflict was maintained with great firmness on both sides. De Court perceiving the perilous situation of his rear, being sensible that their total destruction would follow upon the English rear bearing down, at three o'clock threw out the signal for his van to tack and make sail to the relief of the Spanish ships, hoping thereby to enclose Admiral Matthews between two fires, but the Sterling Castle, Warwick, and Nassau, assisted by the Chatham, (a fifty gun ship not of the line,) being to windward of the French van, hung upon it for a considerable time, and prevented those ships from complying with the French admiral's signal. It was not till five o'clock that the French squadron were able to tack, upon which Admiral Rowley did the same, and hastened to join the centre. All this time Lestock was not come up, although four of the sternmost of the Spanish ships, who, at the beginning of the action, were equally distant from their admiral as he was from his, found means to get up to assist him.

The Poder, a sixty-gun ship, lying ahead of the Real, or Royal Philip, was fired at by the Princeffa, Somerset, Dragon, Bedford, Kingston, and by the Salisbury and Guernsey frigates, of fifty guns, but not within gunshot; which conduct, as it did not annoy the enemy, exposed the several commanders to ridicule. As these ships were intermixed, and made a confused random fire, they were more exposed to their own shot than to that of the enemy, and the Somerset is said to have received many from the Kingston. At length the Berwick bore down upon the Poder, and engaged her in a manner becoming the British honour. The Spaniard made a vigorous resistance, having five hundred men on-board, but, losing her main-mast and fore-top-mast she struck. Several officers boarded her, claiming the honour of the capture; but the captain pointed to the Berwick, and delivered his sword to her lieutenant, saying,

saying, he held the others in the greatest contempt. The French squadron came up just as the *Poder* had struck to the *Berwick*, so that Captain Hawke had only time to take out the Spanish captain, and four of his principal officers, it being impossible to do any thing with the ship, as it was almost dark, and she had not a mast standing, which obliged him to leave her to the French; but his fourth lieutenant and twenty-three men could not be got out of her. The Spanish squadron being thus joined by the French, their whole fleet was ranged in good order of battle. At half an hour past five, Admiral Matthews made the signal for the British fleet to draw into a line of battle ahead: at this time the *Namur* and some others of the same division, continued engaging with the *Royal Philip* and the sternmost ships which had joined her; but, night coming on, firing ceased on all sides, and the British fleet, being all formed in a line, passed on, leaving the Spanish ships greatly shattered, and almost entirely disabled.

The combined fleet took the opportunity of the night, which was very dark, to escape from ours, and avoid renewing the engagement, being taken up in towing their crippled ships before the wind. The British admiral thought it imprudent to continue the engagement after the night closed in, since the necessary orders by signals could not have been distinguished, nor indeed an enemy known from a friend.

Admiral Matthews about eight o'clock at night shifted his ship, and hoisted his flag on-board the *Ruffel*, not caring, should there be an engagement next morning, to risk the falling of all the *Namur's* masts; and the admiral acquainted the vice and rear-admirals with his removal, directing them to keep near him all night: at the same time intimated to Lestock, a surprise at his behaviour, hoping he would be able to give good reasons for his conduct.

Next day the enemy appeared to leeward, with their crippled ships in tow, steering south-west and by west
about

about six leagues distant. The admiral gave chase till night, when he brought to, that he might be joined by the ships astern. In the afternoon, Captain Watkins, of the Burford, joined the fleet. He had been in Hieres Bay the day before, and hearing the report of guns, and seeing the smoke, he made directly for the fleet. The Poder had been so very much disabled, as to retard the French in their sailing, but, when the British fleet bore down so near upon them, the French admiral ordered the Diamond to take out as many of the Spaniards on-board the Poder as possible; upon which several boats were sent, and, after taking out all the men, the ship was left behind. Admiral Matthews then sent the Essex ahead to burn the Poder, not being able to spare any of his squadron to carry her to Minorca, having just before sent the Marlborough thither, under convoy of the Oxford. The Poder was accordingly set on fire, and blew up about half an hour after nine. There was also reason to believe, that, had any wind sprung up, the French would have left the other crippled ships belonging to the Spaniards, as most of them had suffered greatly.

The next day, the 13th, they were perceived again, but at a greater distance, and pursued for some time. But at nine o'clock the wind coming to the eastward, and blowing very hard, Admiral Matthews, suspecting that the French admiral intended to decoy him down the Straits, where he might probably be reinforced by the Brest squadron, thought it most adviseable to give over the chase, especially as several of his ships were greatly disabled in their masts; the admiral therefore made the signal to leave off chasing, and sent the Winchelsea, to recall Lestock, who at ten o'clock lost sight of the confederates, and the British fleet was never able to discover them afterwards.

Next day at noon, the ships having in some measure repaired their damages, the admiral made sail to the north-west, in hopes of meeting the confederate fleet,

and continued that day and night, making sail in for the shore. But the combined squadrons, steering west-south-west, had got on the coast of Spain, where, on the 14th, they were separated in a hard gale; after which the French put into Alicant on the 16th, and the Spaniards arrived at Carthagena on the 17th. Matthews then bore away for Port Mahon, after having in vain attempted to recover his station in Hières Bay.

In this engagement the confederates lost only one ship, the Poder of sixty guns, a loss which the Spaniards readily put up with, as it furnished them with an opportunity of getting all the rest of their fleet into their own harbours, especially as they had taken out all the men, and she afterwards became of no service to the captors. The Royal Philip was greatly damaged, having five hundred men either killed or wounded: among the former was Don Nicolas Geraldine, the Spanish captain; and among the latter was Admiral Navarro, who received two slight wounds: the Neptune lost her captain, Don Henry Olivarez, with his first lieutenant, four officers, and near two hundred men; the Isabella lost some of her officers and three hundred men; but the rest of the combined fleet received no considerable damage. The British squadron, besides the Ann galley fireship, suffered principally in their masts and rigging, towards which the confederate ships mostly directed their shot; the Namur was greatly wounded in her rigging, having fifteen men killed, and the captain and fifty wounded; the Barfleur had but little hurt; and the whole loss in the British fleet did not exceed four hundred men killed and wounded. But the greatest loss was by the death of the heroic Captain Cornwall, who, when his admiral was disabled, intrepidly pushed in with the Marlborough, between the Namur and the Spanish squadron, and, with a bravery most of the fleet were strangers to, took on himself the whole fire of the Spanish line; by his noble behaviour

haviour extorting a confession from the commanders he engaged with, that at least one British captain had honourably maintained the glory of his nation. The concern expressed for the loss of this brave man was general and sincere; and, in order to perpetuate his memory, the parliament voted a splendid monument to be erected in Westminster-abbey, at the public expence.

As soon as the British fleet had arrived at Port Mahon, Admiral Matthews transmitted to Vice-admiral Lestock a number of queries, respecting his conduct on the 11th of February, requiring of him distinct answers to each. These were returned the next day, and therein the vice-admiral asserted that he had crowded all the sail his ship could carry to come up with the enemy. He charged the Dunkirk and Cambridge, who were ahead of him, with not making all the sail in their power, and keeping to windward of their station; particularly the Dunkirk, on which account he fired a shot to windward of them, as a signal, which they did not think proper to observe. To these answers Matthews replied, and the other rejoined. In the rejoinder Lestock observes that, "though he had the honour to bear his majesty's flag, yet he had always, even in the day of battle, been kept ignorant of the designs of the commander in chief, more so than many private captains."—Perhaps this passage serves to explain the true grounds of the late miscarriage more fully than any thing which was said on either side, during the whole altercation. The same day that Matthews received Lestock's rejoinder, he suspended him from his command, and sent him prisoner to England, where, in his turn, he accused his accuser. Long before this engagement, these two officers had expressed the most virulent resentment against each other. Matthews was brave, open, and undisguised; but proud, imperious, and precipitate. Lestock had

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signalized

signalized his courage on many occasions, and perfectly understood the whole discipline of the navy; but he was cool, cunning, and vindictive. He had been treated superciliously by Matthews, and in revenge took advantage of his errors and precipitation. To gratify this passion, he betrayed the interest and glory of his country; for it is not to be doubted, but that he might have come up in time to engage; and, in that case, the fleets of France and Spain would in all likelihood have been destroyed; but he entrenched himself within the punctilios of discipline, and saw with pleasure his antagonist expose himself to the hazard of death, ruin, and disgrace. Matthews himself, in the sequel, sacrificed his duty to his resentment, in restraining Lestock from pursuing and attacking the combined squadrons on the third day after the engagement, when they appeared disabled, and in manifest disorder, and would have fallen an easy prey, had they been vigorously attacked. One can hardly, without indignation, reflect upon these instances, in which a community has so severely suffered from the personal animosity of individuals. The miscarriage off Toulon became a subject of parliamentary enquiry in England. The commons in an address to the throne, desired that a court-martial might be appointed to try the delinquents. By this time Lestock had accused Matthews and all the captains of his division with misbehaviour on the day of battle. The court-martial was constituted, and proceeded to trial. Several commanders of ships were cashiered: Vice-admiral Lestock was acquitted; and Admiral Matthews rendered incapable of serving for the future in his majesty's navy. All the world knew that Lestock kept aloof, and that Matthews rushed into the hottest part of the engagement. Yet the former triumphed on his trial, and the latter narrowly escaped the sentence of death for cowardice and misconduct. Such
decisions

decisions are not to be accounted for, except from prejudice and faction.

A similar spirit of discord had gone forth among the commanders of the combined fleets; the Spanish admiral Navarro represented the conduct of De Court in such a light to the ministry of Spain, that soon after his arrival in port he was superseded. On this occasion he wrote to the Bishop of Rennes, ambassador from the crown of France to the court of Spain. He begins with saying, "It is well known, my lord, that the sea-officers in the service of Spain have been for a long time a good deal out of humour with France, and that so long ago as the year 1741 I had the good fortune actually to save the Spanish squadron under the command of M. Navarro; and I saved it, in spite of all that officer could do; who out of mere affectation stood out to sea, in the sight of Admiral Haddock; though he very well knew, that it was my order to keep within sight of land, and that I was not bound to hazard the squadron under my command for the sake of braving the English, under an admiral whose courage and conduct were not then to be questioned; having appeared on all occasions, even to the Spaniards themselves, not incapable of censure only, but above suspicion." Towards the conclusion of his letter, he has the following remarkable passage: "It was not I, my lord, who forced M. Navarro to fight against all the rules of war and prudence; it was not I who separated his ships from him and threw him in danger; but after he had taken so much pains, in spite of all that I could do, to get himself handsomely beat, it was I that came to his assistance, and gave him an opportunity of getting away, which otherwise he never could have had."

After the action at Toulon, nothing of consequence was achieved by the British squadron in the Mediterranean; and indeed the naval power of Great Britain was, during the summer, quite inactive. In the month
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of June, Commodore Anson returned from his voyage of three years and nine months, in which he had surmounted the terraqueous globe. We have formerly observed, that he sailed with a small squadron to the South-sea, in order to annoy the Spanish settlements of Chili and Peru. Two of his large ships having been separated from him in a storm before he weathered Cape Horn, had put into Rio de Janeiro, on the coast of Brazil, from whence they returned to Europe. A frigate commanded by Captain Cheap was shipwrecked on a desolate island in the South-sea. Mr. Anson having undergone a dreadful tempest, which dispersed his fleet, arrived at the island of Juan Fernandez, where he was joined by the Gloucester, a ship of the line, a sloop, and a pink loaded with provisions. These were the remains of his squadron. He made prize of several vessels; took and burned the little town of Payta: set sail from the coast of Mexico, for the Philippine Isles; and in this passage the Gloucester was abandoned and sunk: the other vessels had been destroyed for want of men to navigate them, so that nothing now remained but the commodore's own ship, the Centurion, and that but very indifferently manned; for the crews had been horribly thinned by sickness. Incredible were the hardships and misery they sustained from the shattered condition of the ships and the scorbutic disorder, when they reached the plentiful island of Tinian, where they were supplied with the necessary refreshments. Thence they prosecuted their voyage to the river of Canton in China, where the commodore ordered the ship to be sheathed, and found means to procure a reinforcement of sailors. The chief object of his attention was the rich annual ship that sails between Acapulco in Mexico, and Manilla, one of the Philippine islands. In hopes of intercepting her, he set sail for Canton, and steered his course back to the straits of Manilla, where she actually fell into his hands after a short but vigorous engagement.

gement. The prize was called *Neustra Signora de Cabodonga*, mounted with forty guns, manned with six hundred sailors, and loaded with treasure and effects to the value of three hundred and thirteen thousand pounds sterling: with this windfall, he returned to Canton; from whence he proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope, and prosecuted his voyage to England, where he arrived in safety. Though this fortunate commander enriched himself by an occurrence that may be termed almost accidental, the British nation was not indemnified for the expence of the expedition; and the original design was entirely defeated. Had the *Manilla* ship escaped the vigilance of the English commodore, he might have been, at his return to England, laid aside as a superannuated captain, and died in obscurity: but his great wealth invested him with considerable influence, and added lustre to his talents. He soon became the oracle which was consulted in all naval deliberations; and the king raised him to the dignity of a peerage. In October following, the first distribution of prize-money to the officers and crew of the *Centurion* was made, when the proportion for the common sailors was 300*l.* 1*s.* per man.

A fleet of Dutch men of war, consisting of twenty sail, under the command of Admiral Baccherit, arrived in the Downs the beginning of July, and proceeded to join the English fleet which lay at Portsmouth, under the command of Sir John Balchen. About the same time advice was received that a fleet of store ships for the Mediterranean, which was convoyed by eleven ships of the line, and a bomb-ketch, commanded by Sir Charles Hardy, having put into Lisbon, the French fleet from Brest composed of fourteen sail of the line and six frigates, under the command of M. Rochambault, appeared off that harbour, and had prevented Sir Charles from putting to sea, and proceeding on his voyage. As these supplies and re-inforcements were essentially necessary to enable

able the force in the Mediterranean to act, Sir John Balchen received orders to sail immediately in quest of the Brest fleet, having English and Dutch ships under his command, to the number of twenty sail, besides frigates and fireships.

The French admiral, on the first news of the approach of this fleet, quitted his station off Algrave, and retired to Cadiz. Sir Charles Hardy hereupon putting to sea, formed a junction with the combined fleet, which sailed to Gibraltar, where Sir John Balchen victualled the Mediterranean fleet, and re-inforcing the garrison of that place, he steered his course for England. On the 20th of September he lost sight of the coast of Galicia, and soon after entered the Bay of Biscay, directing his course towards Ushant; but a violent storm overtaking him, dispersed the whole fleet, and drove some of them to the entrance of the channel, where several of the ships suffered considerably, particularly the Exeter and the Duke, the first of whom lost her main and mizen-masts, and was under the necessity of throwing twelve of her guns overboard; and the latter had all her sails torn to pieces, and ten feet water in her hold. Vice-admiral Stewart, however, who was on-board the Duke, arrived with the greater part of the ships safe at Plymouth; and the whole fleet, except the Victory, came into port by the 10th of October. This ship, on-board of which Sir John Balchen had hoisted his flag, was considered as the largest and most beautiful first-rate in the world: she was separated from the rest of the fleet on the 4th, after which she was never seen or heard of; and this brave commander, with all his officers, volunteers, and crew, amounting to eleven hundred choice seamen, perished. It is generally supposed, that she struck upon a ridge of rocks called the Caskets, near Alderney, as repeated signals of distress were heard by the inhabitants of that island; but the wind blew so violently, that no boat could put out to their assistance.

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The loss of this ship has been imputed to a defect in its construction, and many complaints were at that time made concerning the principles on which the men of war were built, and the conduct of the surveyor-general of the navy. His majesty was pleased to settle a pension of five hundred pounds per annum during life on Lady Balchen, the admiral's widow. A few months before, the admiral had been appointed governor of Greenwich hospital, on the death of Sir John Jennings, soon after which the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him.

Nor was the *Victory* the only man of war that perished about this time: the *Colchester*, of fifty guns and four hundred men, sailing from the Nore for the Downs, struck on the sands, between the Long Sand and Kentish Knock, about seven in the evening, on the 21st of September, in which situation she continued till ten, before a boat could be got out to send for assistance, when a lieutenant, a midshipman, and twelve sailors, made the best of their way for Harwich; during which time the lights were put up in the shrouds, and one hundred and forty guns fired as signals of distress, which were answered by the *Royal Sovereign* at the Nore; but the wind being full east, it was impossible to send her any relief. In this dangerous condition they were obliged to scuttle the ship to prevent her from sinking among the sands, and remained thus till the twenty-third in the evening, when the boat returned from Harwich with six fishing-vessels; but, the sea being rough, they could not get to the ship before morning, when three hundred and sixty-five men, with the captain, were taken out alive; the sick, being sixteen in number, all perished; thirteen were drowned in attempting to save themselves in the long boat, and about eleven more, besides a lieutenant, perished. The survivors were taken to Harwich, but the ship was soon after buried under the sands; and for his negligence the

pilot was sentenced by a court martial to suffer two years imprisonment.

These losses were sustained by the fury of the elements; but a more disgraceful fate attended the Northumberland, a new ship, of seventy guns and four hundred and eighty men. She was commanded by Captain Watson, who, whilst cruising in the channel, fell in with three French men of war, viz. the Mars, of sixty-eight guns and five hundred and eighty men, commanded by M. de Perrier; the Constant, of sixty guns and four hundred and eighty men, commanded by M. Conflans; and the Venus, of twenty-six guns and two hundred and fifty men, commanded by M. de Dacher. The Northumberland sustained this very unequal combat for three hours, with great firmness and spirit, till Captain Watson was mortally wounded: she then struck her colours by order of the master, for which he was afterwards sentenced by a court-martial to perpetual imprisonment. The French ships lost one hundred and thirty men in the engagement, and their rigging was so shattered, that they intended to sheer off as soon as it was dark. They carried the Northumberland into Brest in great triumph, where Captain Watson soon after died.—The Seaford, Captain Pie, and the Solebay, Captain Bury, both new twenty-gun ships, also the Grampus sloop, Captain Bret, were likewise taken by part of Brest squadron in the course of this year.

The war in Germany, which had been almost extinguished in the last campaign, began to revive, and raged with redoubled violence. The emperor had solicited the mediation of his Britannic majesty, for compromising the differences between him and the court of Vienna. Prince William of Hesse Cassel had conferred with the King of England on this subject; and a negotiation was begun at Hanau. The emperor offered to dismiss the French auxiliaries, provided the Austrians would evacuate his hereditary dominions. Nay, Prince
William

William and Lord Carteret, as plenipotentiaries, actually agreed to preliminaries, by which his Imperial majesty engaged to renounce the alliance of France, and throw himself into the arms of the maritime powers; to renounce all pretensions to the succession of the House of Austria; and to revive the vote of Bohemia in the electoral college, on condition of his being re-established in the possession of his dominions, recognized as emperor by the Queen of Hungary, and accommodated with a monthly subsidy for his maintenance, as his own territories were exhausted and impoverished by the war. By a separate article, the King of Great Britain promised to furnish him with three hundred thousand crowns, and to interpose his good offices with the Queen of Hungary, that his electoral dominions should be favourably treated. These preliminaries, though settled, were not signed. The court of Vienna was unwilling to part with their conquests in Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate. The queen trusted too much to the valour of her troops, and the wealth of her allies, to listen to such terms of accommodation; and, whatever arguments were used with the King of Britain, certain it is, the negotiation was dropped, on pretence that the articles were disapproved by the ministry of England. The emperor, environed with distress, renewed his application to the King of Great Britain; and even declared that he would refer his cause to the determination of the maritime powers; but all his advances were discountenanced; and the treaty of Worms dispelled all hope of accommodation. In this manner did the British ministry reject the fairest opportunity that could possibly occur of terminating the war in Germany with honour and advantage, and of freeing their country from that insufferable burthen of expence under which she groaned.

The inflexibility of the house of Austria, and its chief ally, proved serviceable to the emperor. The forlorn situation of this unfortunate prince excited the

compassion of divers others: they resented the insolence with which the head of the empire had been treated by the court of Vienna; and they were alarmed at the increasing power of a family, noted for pride, tyranny, and ambition. These considerations gave rise to the treaty of Frankfort, concluded between the emperor, the King of Prussia, the King of Sweden, as Landgrave of Hesse Castle, and the Elector Palatine. They engaged to preserve the constitution of the empire, according to the treaty of Westphalia, and to support the emperor in his rank and dignity. They agreed to employ their good offices with the Queen of Hungary that she might be induced to acknowledge the emperor, to restore his hereditary dominions, and give up the archives of the emperor that were in her possession. They guaranteed to each other their respective territories: the disputes about the succession of the late emperor, they referred to the decision of the states of the empire: they promised to assist one another in case of being attacked: and they invited the King of Poland, the Elector of Cologne, and the Bishop of Liege, to accede to this treaty. Such was the confederacy which broke all the measures which had been concerted between the King of Great Britain and her Hungarian majesty, for the operations of the campaign. In the mean time, the French declared war against this princess, on pretence that she was obstinately deaf to all terms of accommodation, and determined to carry the war into the territories of France. In her counter-declaration, she taxed Louis with having infringed the most solemn engagement, with respect to the pragmatic sanction; with having spirited up different pretenders, to lay claim to the succession of the late emperor; with having endeavoured to instigate the common enemy of Christendom against her; and with having acted the incendiary in the north of Europe, that the czarina might be prevented from assisting the house of Austria, while his

numerous

numerous armies overspread the empire, and desolated her hereditary countries. These recriminations were literally true. The houses of Bourbon and Austria had, for many centuries, been the common disturbers and plagues of Europe.

The King of France, though in himself pacific and unenterprising, was stimulated by his ministry to taste the glory of conquest in the Netherlands, where he had assembled an army of one hundred and twenty thousand men, provided with a very formidable train of artillery. The chief command was vested in Marshal Count Saxe, who possessed great military talents, and proved one of the most fortunate generals of the age in which he lived. This general was originally a soldier of fortune, and natural son to Augustus king of Poland, by the famous Countess of Koningsmark. He had been bred from his youth in camps, and had shewn the most early instances of cool intrepidity. He, in the beginning of the war, had offered his service to several crowns, and, among the rest, it is said, to that of England; but his offers were rejected. He was possessed of great military talents; and, by long habit, preserved an equal composure in the midst of battle, as in a drawing-room at court.—On the other side, the allied forces, consisting of English, Hanoverians, Dutch, and Austrians, to the number of seventy thousand effective men, were in the month of May assembled in the neighbourhood of Brussels, from whence they marched towards Oudenarde, and posted themselves behind the Schelde, being unable to retard the progress of the enemy. The French monarch, attended by his favourite ladies, with all the pomp of eastern luxury, arrived at Lisle on the twelfth of the same month; and in the adjacent plain reviewed his army. The states-general, alarmed at his preparations, had, in a conference with his ambassador at the Hague, expressed their apprehensions, and entreated his most Christian majesty would desist from
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his design of attacking their barrier. Their remonstrances having proved ineffectual, they now sent a minister to wait upon that monarch, to enforce their former representations, and repeat their entreaties: but no regard was paid to his request. The French king told him, he was determined to prosecute the war with vigour, as his moderation had hitherto served to no other purpose, but that of rendering his enemies more intractable. Accordingly, his troops invested Menin, which was in seven days surrendered upon capitulation. Ypres, Fort Knocke, and Furnes, underwent the same fate; and on the twenty-ninth of June the King of France entered Dunkirk in triumph.

He had taken such precautions for the defence of Alsace, which was guarded by considerable armies under the command of Coigni and Seckendorf, that he thought he had nothing to fear from the Austrians in that quarter: besides, he had received secret assurances that the King of Prussia would declare for the emperor; so that he resolved to pursue his conquests in the Netherlands. But all his measures were defeated by the activity of Prince Charles of Lorraine, and his officers, who found means to pass the Rhine, and oblige the French and Bavarian generals to retire to Lampertheim, that they might cover Strasburgh. The Austrians made themselves masters of Haguenau and Saverne: they secured the passes of Lorraine; and laid all the country of Lower Alsace under contribution. The King of France was no sooner apprised of the prince's having passed the Rhine, and penetrated into this province, than he sent off a detachment of thirty thousand men from his army in Flanders to reinforce that under Marshal Coigny; and he himself began his journey from the Rhine, that he might in person check the progress of the enemy: but this design was anticipated by a severe distemper that overtook him at Metz in Lorraine. The physicians despaired of his life.

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The queen, with her children, and all the princes of the blood, hastened from Versailles to pay the last duties to their dying sovereign, who, as a true penitent, dismissed his concubines, and began to prepare himself for death: yet the strength of his constitution triumphed over the fever, and his recovery was celebrated all over his dominions with uncommon marks of joy and affection.

In the mean time the schemes of the Austrian general were frustrated by the King of Prussia, who, in the month of August, entered the electorate of Saxony, at the head of a numerous army. There he declared, in a public manifesto, that his aims were only to re-establish the peace of the empire, and to support the dignity of its head. In a rescript, addressed to his ministers at foreign courts, he accused the Queen of Hungary of obstinacy, in refusing to acknowledge the emperor, and restore his hereditary dominions: he said, he had engaged in the league of Frankfort, to hinder the head of the empire from being oppressed: that he had no intention to violate the peace of Breslau, or enter as a principal into this war: he affirmed, that his design was to act as auxiliary to the emperor, and establish the quiet of Germany. He penetrated into Bohemia, and undertook the siege of Prague, the governor of which surrendered himself and his garrison prisoners of war on the sixteenth of September. He afterwards reduced Tabor, Bodweis, and Teyn, and in a word subdued the greatest part of the kingdom; the Austrian forces in that country being in no condition to stop his progress. Nevertheless, he was soon obliged to relinquish his conquests. Prince Charles of Lorraine was recalled from Alsace, and repassed the Rhine in the face of the French army, commanded by the Marshals de Coigni, Noailles, and Belleisle. Then he marched to the Danube, laid the Upper Palatinate under contribution, and, entering Bohemia, joined the troops under Bathiani
at

at Merotitz. The King of Poland, elector of Saxony, at this juncture, declared in favour of her Hungarian majesty. A convention for the mutual guarantee of their dominions, had been signed between those two powers in December; and now Prince Charles of Lorraine was reinforced by twenty thousand Saxon troops, under the conduct of the Duke of Saxe Weissenfels. The combined army was superior to that of his Prussian majesty, whom they resolved to engage. But he retired before them, and, having evacuated all the places he had garrisoned in Bohemia, retreated with precipitation to Silesia. There his troops were put into winter-quarters; and he himself returned to Berlin, extremely mortified at the issue of the campaign.

During these transactions, Count Seckendorf marched into Bavaria, at the head of a strong army, drove the Austrians out of that electorate, and the emperor regained possession of Munich, his capital, on the twenty-second of October. In August the French army passed the Rhine at Fort Louis, and invested the strong and important city of Fribourg, defended by General Demnitz, at the head of nine thousand veterans. The King of France arrived in the camp on the eleventh of October; and the siege was carried on with uncommon vigour. The Austrian governor made incredible efforts in the defence of the place, which he maintained until it was reduced to a heap of ruins, and one half of the garrison destroyed. At length, however, they were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war, after the trenches had been open five-and-forty days, during which they had killed above fifteen thousand of the besiegers. With this conquest the French king closed the campaign, and his army was cantoned along the Rhine, under the inspection of Count Maillebois. By the detachments drawn from the French army in Flanders, Count Saxe had found himself considerably weaker than the confederates:

confederates: he threw up strong intrenchments behind the Lys, where he remained on the defensive, until he was reinforced by Count Clermont, who commanded a separate body on the side of Nieuport. The allies, to the number of seventy thousand, passed the Scheld, and advanced towards Helchin: but the enemy being so advantageously posted, that they could not attack him with any prospect of advantage, they filed off in sight of Tournay; and on the eighth of August encamped in the plains of Lisle, in hope of drawing Count Saxe from the situation in which he was so strongly fortified. Here they foraged for several days, and laid the open country under contribution: however, they made no attempt on the place itself, which in all probability would have fallen into their hands had they invested it at their first approach; for then there was no other garrison but two or three battalions of militia; but Count Saxe soon threw in a considerable reinforcement. The allies were unprovided with a train of battering cannon; and their commanders would not deviate from the usual form of war. Besides, they were divided in their opinions, and despised one another. General Wade, who commanded the English and Hanoverians, was a vain weak man, without confidence, weight, or authority; and the Austrian general, the Duke d'Arenberg, was proud and rapacious, devoid of talents or good behaviour. After having remained for some time in sight of Lisle, and made a general forage without molestation, they retired to their former camp on the Scheld, from whence they soon marched into winter-quarters. Count Saxe at length quitted his lines; and, by way of retaliation, sent out detachments to ravage the low countries, to the very gates of Ghent and Bruges. The conduct of the allied generals was severely censured in England, and ridiculed in France, not only in private conversation but also on their pub-

lic theatres, where it became the subject of farces and pantomimes.

After the siege of Friburg, Marshal Belleisle and his brother happened, in their way to Berlin, to halt at a village on the forest of Hartz, dependent on the electorate of Hanover. There they were apprehended by the bailiff of the place, and conducted as prisoners to Osterode; thence they were removed to Stade on the Elbe, where they embarked for England. They resided at Windsor till the following year, when they were allowed the benefit of the cartel which had been established between Great Britain and France at Frankfort, and released accordingly, after they had been treated by the British nobility with that respect and hospitality which was due to their rank and merit.

The dissensions in the British cabinet were now ripened into another revolution in the ministry. Lord Carteret, who was by this time Earl Granville in consequence of his mother's death, had engrossed the royal favour so much, that he had incurred the resentment of those who were distinguished by the appellation of patriots, and entirely forfeited his popularity.

The Duke of Newcastle, and his brother Mr. Pelham, being very powerful from their parliamentary interest, engaged in a political alliance with the leading men in the opposition, against the prime minister and his measures. To this coalition was given the epithet of the Broad Bottom, as if it had been established on a constitutional foundation, comprehending individuals of every class, without distinction of party. The appellation, however, which they assumed was afterwards converted into a term of derision. Earl Granville perceiving the gathering storm, and foreseeing the impossibility of withstanding such an opposition in parliament, wisely avoided the impending danger and disgrace, by a voluntary resignation of his employments. The Earl of Harrington succeeded him as secretary of state. The Duke of Bedford

Bedford was appointed first lord of the admiralty, and the Earl of Chesterfield declared lord lieutenant of Ireland. The Lords Gower and Cobham were re-established in the offices they had resigned; Mr. Lyttleton was admitted as a commissioner of the treasury; even Sir John Hynd Cotton accepted of a place at court; and Sir John Philips sat at the board of trade and plantations, though he soon renounced this employment. This was rather a change of men than of measures, and turned out to the ease and advantage of the sovereign; for his views were no longer thwarted by an obstinate opposition in parliament. The session was opened on the twenty-eighth of November, in the usual manner. The commons unanimously granted about six millions and an half for the service of the year 1745, to be raised by the land, the malt, and the salt, taxes; the sinking fund, and an additional duty on wines. In January, the Earl of Chesterfield set out for the Hague, with the character of ambassador extraordinary, to persuade, if possible, the states-general to engage heartily in the war. About the same time a treaty of quadruple alliance was signed at Warsaw, by the Queen of Hungary, the King of Poland, and the maritime powers. This was a mutual guarantee of the dominions belonging to the contracting parties: but his Polish majesty was paid for his concurrence, with an annual subsidy of 150,000*l.* two-thirds of which were defrayed by England, and the remainder was disbursed by the united provinces.

The business of the British parliament being discussed, the session was closed in the beginning of May; and, immediately after the prorogation, the king set out for Hanover. The death of the Emperor Charles VII. which happened in January, had entirely changed the face of affairs in the empire, and all the princes of Germany were in commotion. The Grand Duke of Tuscany, consort to her Hungarian majesty, was

immediately declared a candidate for the imperial crown; while his pretensions were warmly opposed by the French king and his allies. The court of Vienna, taking advantage of the late emperor's death, sent an army to invade Bavaria in the month of March, under the conduct of General Bathiani, who routed the French and Palatine troops at Pfiffenhoven; took possession of Rain; surrounded and disarmed six thousand Hessians in the neighbourhood of Ingoldstadt; and drove the Bavarian forces out of the electorate. The young Elector of Bavaria, son to Charles VII. was obliged to abandon his capital, and retire to Augsburgh, where he found himself in danger of losing all his dominions. In this emergency, he yielded to the earnest solicitations of the empress his mother, enforced by the advice of his uncle, the Elector of Cologne, and of his general, Count Seckendorff, who exhorted him to be reconciled to the court of Vienna. A negotiation was immediately begun at Fuesen, where, in April, the treaty was concluded. The queen consented to recognize the imperial dignity, as having been vested in the person of his father; to acknowledge his mother as empress dowager; to restore his dominions, with all the fortresses, artillery, stores, and ammunition, which she had taken: on the other hand, he renounced all claim to the succession of his father, and became guarantee of the pragmatic sanction: he acknowledged the validity of the electoral vote of Bohemia in the person of the queen; and engaged to give his voice for the grand duke at the ensuing election of a king of the Romans. Until that should be determined, both parties agreed that Ingoldstadt should be garrisoned by neutral troops; and that Braunau and Scharding, with all the country lying between the Inn and the Saltza, should remain in the queen's possession, though without prejudice to the civil government, or the elector's revenue. In the mean time he dismissed the

the auxiliaries that were in his pay, and they were permitted to retire without molestation.

The court of Vienna had now secured the votes of all the electors, except those of Brandenburg and the Palatinate. Nevertheless, France assembled a powerful army in the neighbourhood of Frankfort, in order to influence the election. But the Austrian army, commanded by the grand duke in person, marched thither from the Danube; and the Prince of Conti was obliged to re-pass the Rhine at Nordlingen. Then the grand duke repaired to Frankfort, where, on the second of September, he was by a majority of voices declared King of the Romans and Emperor of Germany.

Meanwhile the King of Prussia had made great progress in the conquest of Silesia. The campaign began in January, when the Hungarian insurgents were obliged to retire into Moravia. In the following month, the Prussian General Lehwald defeated a body of twelve thousand Austrians, commanded by General Helfrich; the town of Ratibor was taken by assault; and the king entered Silesia, in May, at the head of seventy thousand men. Prince Charles of Lorraine, being joined by the Duke of Saxe Wesselsels and twenty thousand Saxons, penetrated into Silesia by the defiles of Landshut; and were attacked by his Prussian majesty in the plains of Striegen, near Friedberg. The battle was maintained from morning till noon, when, the Saxons giving way, Prince Charles was obliged to retire with the loss of twelve thousand men, and a great number of colours, standards, and artillery. This victory, obtained on the fourth of June, complete as it was, did not prove decisive; for, though the victor transferred the seat of war into Bohemia, and maintained his army by raising contributions in that country, the Austrians resolved to hazard another engagement. Their aim was to surprise him in his camp at Söhr, which they attacked

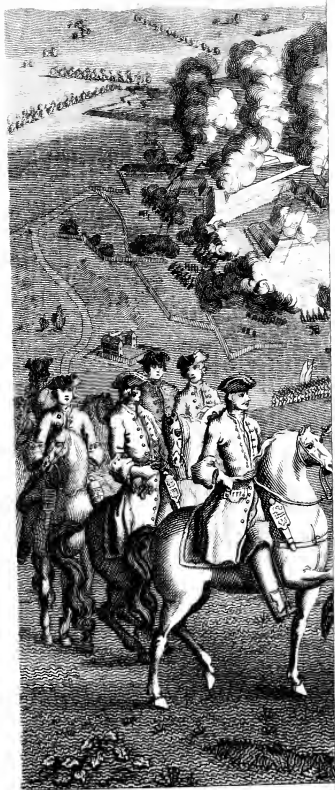
attacked on the thirtieth of September, at day-break: but they met with such a warm reception, that notwithstanding their repeated efforts during the space of four hours, they were repulsed with considerable damage, and retreated to Jaromire, leaving five thousand killed upon the spot, besides two thousand that were taken, with many standards, and twenty pieces of cannon. The loss of this battle was in a great measure owing to the avarice of the irregulars, who, having penetrated into the Prussian camp, began to pillage with great eagerness, giving the king an opportunity to rally his disordered troops, and restore the battle; nevertheless, they retired with the plunder of his baggage, including his military chest, the officers of his chancery, his own secretary, and all the papers of his cabinet.

After this action his Prussian majesty returned to Berlin, and breathed nothing but peace and moderation. In August he had signed a convention with the King of Great Britain, who became guarantee of his possessions in Silesia, as yielded by the treaty of Breslau; and he promised to vote for the Grand Duke of Tuscany at the election of an emperor. This was intended as the basis of a more general accommodation. But he now pretended to have received undoubted intelligence, that the King of Poland and the Queen of Hungary had agreed to invade Brandenburg with three different armies; and, that for this purpose, his Polish majesty had demanded of the czarina the succours stipulated by treaty. Alarmed, or seemingly alarmed, at this information, he solicited the maritime powers to fulfil their engagements, and interpose their good offices with the court of Petersburg. Yet, far from waiting for the result of these remonstrances, he made a sudden irruption into Lusatia, took possession of Gorlitz, and obliged Prince Charles of Lorraine to retire before him into Bohemia. Then he entered Leipzig, and laid
Saxony

Saxony under contribution. The King of Poland, unable to resist the torrent, quitted his capital, and took refuge in Prague. His troops, reinforced by a body of Austrians, were defeated at Pirna on the fifteenth of December; and his Prussian majesty became master of Dresden without further opposition. The King of Poland, thus deprived of his hereditary dominions, was fain to acquiesce in such terms as the conqueror thought proper to impose; and the treaty of Dresden was concluded, under the mediation of his Britannic majesty. By this convention the King of Prussia retained all the contributions he had levied in Saxony; and was entitled to a million of German crowns, to be paid by his Polish majesty at the next fair at Leipzig. He and the elector palatine consented to acknowledge the grand duke as Emperor of Germany; and this last confirmed to his Prussian majesty certain privileges which had been granted by the late emperor, with regard to some territories possessed by the King of Prussia, though not belonging to the electorate of Brandenburg. Immediately after the ratification of this treaty, the Prussian troops evacuated Saxony; and the peace of Germany was restored.

Though the French king could not prevent the elevation of the grand duke to the imperial throne, he resolved to humble the house of Austria, by making a conquest of the Netherlands. A prodigious army was there assembled, under the auspices of Marshal Count Saxe; and, his most christian majesty, with the dauphin, arriving in the camp, they invested the strong town of Tournay, on the thirtieth of April. The Dutch garrison consisted of eight thousand men, commanded by the old Baron Dorth, who made a vigorous defence. The Duke of Cumberland assumed the chief command of the allied army assembled at Soignies: he was assisted with the advice of the Count Konigseg, an Austrian general, and the Prince of Waldeck, commander of the Dutch forces. Their
army

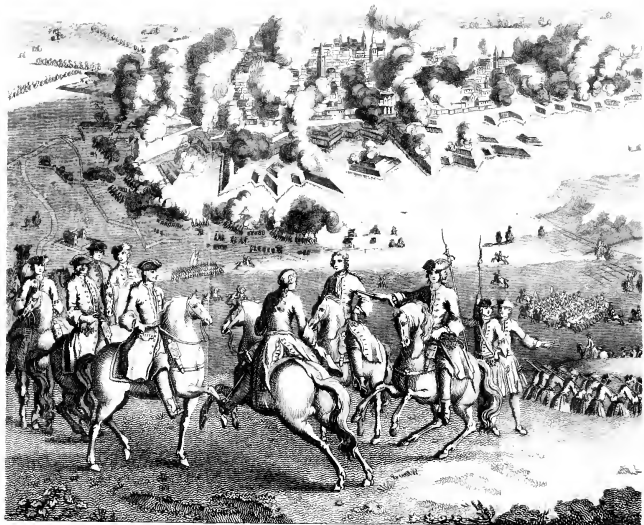
army was greatly inferior in number to that of the enemy; nevertheless, they resolved to march to the relief of Tournay. They accordingly advanced to Leuse; and on the twenty-eighth of April took post at Maulbre, in sight of the French army, which was encamped on an eminence, from the village of Antoine to a large wood beyond Vezon, having Fontenoy in their front. Next day was employed by the allies in driving the enemy from some outposts, and clearing the defiles through which they were obliged to advance to the attack; while the French completed their batteries, and made the most formidable preparation for their reception. On the thirtieth of April, the Duke of Cumberland, having made the proper dispositions, began his march to the enemy at two o'clock in the morning: a brisk cannonade ensued; and about nine both armies were engaged. The British infantry drove the French beyond their lines: but the left wing failing in the attack on the village of Fontenoy, and the cavalry forbearing to advance on the flanks, they measured back their ground with some disorder, from the prodigious fire of the French batteries. They rallied, however, and, returning to the charge with redoubled ardour, repulsed the enemy to their camp with great slaughter; but, being wholly unsupported by the other wing, and exposed both in front and flank to a dreadful fire, which did great execution, the duke was obliged to make the necessary dispositions for a retreat about three o'clock in the afternoon; and this was effected in tolerable order. The battle was fought with great obstinacy, and the carnage on both sides was very considerable. The allies lost about twelve thousand men, including a good number of officers; among these were Lieutenant-general Campbell, and Major-general Ponsonby. The victory cost the French almost an equal number of lives; and no honour was lost by the vanquished. Had the allies given battle on the preceding day, before



fore the enemy had taken their measures, and received all their reinforcements, they might have succeeded in their endeavours to relieve Tournay. Although the attack was generally judged rash and precipitate, the British and Hanoverian troops fought with such intrepidity and perseverance, that if they had been properly sustained by the Dutch forces, and their flanks covered by the cavalry, the French, in all likelihood, would have been obliged to abandon their enterprise. The Duke of Cumberland left his sick and wounded to the humanity of the victors; and, retiring to Aeth, encamped in an advantageous situation at Lessines. The garrison of Tournay, though now deprived of all hope of succour, maintained the place to the 21st of June, when the governor obtained an honourable capitulation.

After the conquest of this frontier, which was dismantled, the Duke of Cumberland, apprehending the enemy had a design upon Ghent, sent a detachment of four thousand men to reinforce the garrison of that city: but they fell into an ambuscade at Pas-du-mêle; and were killed or taken, except a few dragoons that escaped to Ostend. On that very night, which was the 12th of June, Ghent was surprised by a detachment of the French army.—Then they invested Ostend, which, though defended by an English garrison, and open to the sea, was, after a short siege, surrendered by capitulation, on the 14th of August. Dendermond, Oudenarde, Nieuport, and Aeth, underwent the same fate; while the allied army lay entrenched beyond the canal of Antwerp. The French king having subdued the greatest part of the Austrian Netherlands, returned to Paris, which he entered in triumph.

The naval transactions of Great Britain were, in the course of this year, remarkably spirited and successful. But the most important achievement was the conquest of Louisbourg, on the isle of Cape Bre-



The Siege of Tournay.

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ton, in North America: a place of great consequence, which the French had fortified at a prodigious expence. The island of Cape Breton had been confirmed to France by the peace of Utrecht. The cod-fishery carried on in those parts was the source of an advantageous commerce, which employed annually above five hundred vessels belonging to Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Havre de Grace, and other towns in France; these ships also brought home at least three thousand tons of oil, proper for a variety of manufactures: it was a nursery for sailors; and this commerce, joined to the cod-fishery, employed ten thousand seamen, and circulated ten millions of livres, or near half a million sterling. This island is situated at the entrance of the gulph of St. Lawrence, between the 45th and 47th degrees of north latitude. Newfoundland lies to the east, on the same gulph, and is only fifteen or sixteen leagues distant from it; and to the west, Acadia, or Nova Scotia, is only separated from the island by a strait, not more than three or four leagues over. Cape Breton, thus situated between the territories ceded to its enemies, threatened their possessions, while it protected those of France. The island measures about thirty-six leagues in length, and twenty-two in its greatest breadth. It is surrounded with little sharp-pointed rocks, separated from each other by the waves, above which some of their tops are visible. All its harbours open to the east, turning towards the south. On the other parts of the coast there are but a few anchoring places for small vessels, in creeks, or in islets. Except in the hilly parts, the surface of the country has but little solidity, being every where covered with a light moss, and with water. The dampness of the soil is exhaled in fogs, without rendering the air unwholesome. In other respects the climate is very cold, owing either to the prodigious quantity of lakes, which cover above half the island, and

and remain frozen a long time, or the number of forests, that totally intercept the rays of the sun; the effects of which is besides decreased by perpetual clouds.

The harbour of Louisbourg, situated on the eastern coast of the island, is at least a league in depth, and above a quarter of a league broad in the narrowest part. Its bottom is good, the soundings are usually from six to ten fathom, and it is easy to tack about in it either to sail in or out even in bad weather. It includes a small gulph, very commodious for refitting ships of all sizes, which may even winter there, with proper precautions. The only inconvenience attending this excellent harbour is, that it is frozen up from November till May, and frequently continues so till June. The entrance, which is naturally narrow, is also guarded by Goat Island; the cannon of which, playing upon a level with the surface of the water, would sink ships of any size, that should attempt to force a passage. The batteries, one of thirty six, the other of twelve twenty-four pounders, erected on the two opposite shores, would support and cross this formidable fire. The town is built on a neck of land that runs into the sea, and is about half a league in circuit; the streets are broad and regular. Almost all the houses are made of wood. Those that are of stone, were constructed at the expence of the government, and destined for the reception of the troops. A number of wharfs have been erected, that project a considerable way into the harbour, and are extremely convenient for loading and unloading the ships. The fortification of Louisbourg was executed upon very good plans, and supplied with all the works that can render a place formidable. More than thirty millions of livres (1,312,500*l.* sterling) were expended upon them. This was not thought too great a sum for the support of the fisheries, for securing the communication between France and Canada, and for obtaining a security or

retreat to ships in time of war coming from the southern islands.

The plan for reducing this fortress was planned at Boston in New England, recommended by their general assembly, and approved by the British cabinet. Instructions were sent from the board of admiralty to Commodore Warren, who commanded in the Leeward Islands, to sail for the northern parts of America, and co-operate with the naval forces of New England in this expedition. Meanwhile a lottery had been set on foot in America, which furnished a means of raising a small army of four thousand volunteers, which was accounted and provided with transports at the sole expence of the colony. **The** command of these troops was entrusted to Mr. **Pepperel**, a trader of Piscataway, whose influence was extensive in that country; notwithstanding he was a man bred to trade, with a very confined education, and unacquainted with military operations.

In April Mr. Warren arrived at Canso in Nova Scotia, with the *Superbe*, of sixty guns, the *Lanceston*, *Eltham*, and *Mermaid*, of forty guns each; here he found ten American privateers, and every thing in readiness for setting forward on the expedition. On the 30th of April they came to an anchor in Gabaron Bay, about a league from Louisbourg. Here the troops were landed, without the loss of a man, though Captain Marpang was sent at the head of a detachment of one hundred men to prevent their landing; but the fire from the ships soon dispersed them, and drove them into the woods, which prevented them from returning to Louisbourg.

While the troops were making great advances towards the reduction of the place, the commodore cruised off the harbour, and had the good fortune to take the *Vigilante*, a new French man of war of sixty-four guns and five hundred and sixty men, commanded by the Marquis de Maissonfort. She was laden

den with stores, a great number of battering cannon, one thousand half-barrels of gunpowder, &c. the whole cargo valued at 60,000*l*. The commodore also took a large brigantine from France, laden with brandy and stores: two French ships and a snow were also taken by the Sunderland and the Chester, one of which was a French frigate called the Deliverance, and came from the South Seas, richly laden. By these fortunate acquisitions, the French were deprived of all their expected succours, and the town soon reduced to the utmost necessity.

A disagreement subsisted between the French officers and their soldiers, which prevented the governor, M. de Chambon, from taking the most active and effectual measures for the defence of the place. Had he mustered his whole force, and fallen upon the New England troops whilst they were forming their camp and beginning to open their trenches, he would most probably have proved successful. Besiegers unacquainted with the principles of the art of war, were very likely to be disconcerted by regular and vigorous attacks. The first checks might have been sufficient to discourage them, and make them relinquish the undertaking; but such were the suspicions which the officers entertained of their men, that, when they expressed an ardour to be led forth to action, they imputed it to a general design which the soldiers had formed of deserting, and that it was with such views alone that they were desirous of falling out. The Abbé Raynal informs us, that this disagreement took its rise from the following circumstance. The French soldiers had been employed for a considerable time, in repairing and strengthening the fortifications of Louisbourg; but, after they had exerted themselves with singular spirit in this business, their officers, who had received from the French government full payment for the expences charged for these improvements, appropriated to them-

selves

selves the whole money. The soldiers in vain asserted their right to a gratuity for their labour; they could obtain no redress. Hereupon their indignation against these rapacious extortioners rose to such a height, that they despised all authority. They had lived in open rebellion for six months when the English appeared before the place; but no sooner was an enemy descried, than the soldiers expressed a readiness to forget the injuries they had received, and to unite with their officers in the common cause of all; but their commanders, mistrusting a generosity of which they themselves were incapable, could not conceive it possible that the soldiers were actuated by such exalted sentiments as to sacrifice their own resentment to the good of their country; they therefore kept them in a manner prisoners in the town.

While the American troops, re-inforced by eight hundred marines, carried on their approaches by land, the squadron blocked up the place by sea so effectually as to prevent all kind of succours being thrown in. A French ship of sixty-four guns, with a supply of ammunition and other necessaries for the garrison, fell into the hands of the English; soon after which the commodore was joined by the Canterbury and Sunderland, of sixty guns each, and the Chester, of fifty guns; and on the 11th of June arrived the Princess Mary, the Hector, and the Lark. Through the whole progress of the siege, Commodore Warren gave the fullest proofs of vigilance, courage, and consummate skill. The engineers from the ships, and the officers who commanded the marines, successfully conducted the operations of the siege, whilst the American troops cheerfully and bravely acted under their directions. The bombs which were thrown into the town having done great execution, and the governor seeing no possibility of receiving succours, sent a flag of truce to the British camp, and capitulated on the 17th of June, when the city of Louisbourg and the island of Cape

Cape Breton were surrendered to his Britannic majesty. The English prescribed their own terms. The garrison and inhabitants engaged that they would not bear arms against Great Britain or her allies during twelve months, and the English undertook to transport them, being two thousand people, to France; they were therefore soon after embarked in fourteen cartel ships, and transported to Rochfort, to the great surprize of the French, who saw an entire new colony left upon their strand by English ships.

The reduction of Louisbourg proved fatal to the French East India Company. That body of merchants had undertaken to farm the fur-trade of Canada, so that their ships often touched at Louisbourg. Soon after it fell into the hands of the English, two of those ships sailed into the harbour, ignorant of the fate which had befallen it: nor did the good fortune of the captors stop here; a large West-Indiaman, named the *Esperance*, which had been chased by privateers, having escaped them, sought an asylum in the harbour of Louisbourg, and there met the destiny it endeavoured to shun.

The news of the conquest of this island being transmitted to England, Mr. Pepperel was created a knight-baronet, and addresses were presented to his majesty from different parts of the kingdom, congratulating him on the success of his arms.

A privateer called the *Prince Frederic*, about this time, had the good fortune to take two prizes, the value of which surpassed all the treasure brought home by Commodore Anson. Captain James Talbot, who commanded this fortunate cruiser, sailed from Cowes the 2d of June, in company with the *Duke* and *Prince George*, of which little squadron he was commodore. Five days after they had got to sea, the *Prince George*, in chasing a sail which appeared in sight, overset, and no more than twenty of those on-board could be saved, one hundred and fourteen persons

sons perishing. Captain Talbot proceeded with his two ships to the Western Islands, and on the 10th of July. at six in the morning, three sail were descried bearing westward. In about an hour they were plainly discerned to be French ships, and, as they shewed no disposition to avoid an action, a warm engagement began. The Duke bore to windward, and wasted her fire to little purpose against one of the enemies ships. The Prince Frederic more judiciously bore down within pistol-shot of one of them, when a warm fire was maintained for three hours. The French captain proposed to his people to blow up the ship rather than surrender her; but he being mortally wounded the colours were struck. Whilst the Prince Frederic was thus engaged with one of the Frenchmen, the third, which was the largest, attacked her on her off bow, and put her between two fires. As soon as the first had struck, Captain Talbot directed all his force against the other, who, notwithstanding the loss of her associate, fought it out with great bravery for a considerable time longer. It was not until the captain had received a wound that obliged him to quit the deck that her colours were struck. The whole day had been employed in this deperate service, in all which time the Duke had not been able to master the smallest of the three ships which fell to her share; and, when night approached, the Frenchman crowding sail to get away, she quitted him to assist the Prince Frederick, who had then got possession of her two prizes. The brave Captain Talbot all this time imagined that he had been engaging two Martinico-men; but, when their officers were brought on-board the Prince Frederic, he was most agreeably surpris'd to find that they were freighted with treasure from Callao in Peru, which had been put on-board these French ships to be transported to Europe with greater safety, as war had not been declared between France and England when those ships sailed. They were

were called the Marquis d'Antin, burthen four hundred and fifty tons, twenty-four guns, Captain Magon Serpere, and the Lewis Herafma, five hundred tons, twenty-eight guns, Captain Pedro Luvigne Luenel; and the one that escaped was called Notre Dame de Libérance, of three hundred tons, and eighteen guns, Captain Pedro Litan. On-board the Prince Frederic five men were killed and twenty-five wounded. In the engagement, a youth named Masterfon, who had sailed with Commodore Anson round the world, greatly distinguished himself, and by his conduct contributed much to the success of the day. It was with difficulty the French ships could be brought into port, having suffered so much in the action that they were obliged to be towed for three weeks, until they reached the harbour of Kinsale. They had been out four years, and were supposed to have a million sterling on-board in gold and silver, besides eight hundred tons of cocoa. A Spaniard, who had been governor of Peru was on-board one of these ships, besides many French and Spaniards of great distinction. Such was the generosity of the privateer's people, that they took none of the rings, watches, money, or other valuable effects, which the passengers had about their persons; and, when they put the common men ashore, they distributed to each man twenty guineas. When the wealth of these ships was divided, each sailor of the two privateers had eight hundred and fifty guineas for his share; the two captains had each three thousand five hundred guineas, and the remainder was divided among the owners of the privateers, after it had been transported in triumph from Bristol to London in forty-three waggons. Another circumstance, well worthy of relating before we dismiss this memorable event, is, that many of those who shared this prize-money made a voluntary tender of it to his majesty, to enable him to support the war; this offer

was accepted, and the proprietors received interest thereon.

Commodore Barnet, on the 5th of May, 1744, had sailed from Portsmouth with four men of war for the East-Indies, in consequence of an application which had been made by the East-India directors to the lords of the admiralty. The commodore, having doubled the Cape of Good Hope, touched at the island of Madagascar to take in water. Here the squadron separated; Commodore Barnet in the *Deptford*, and Lord Northesk in the *Preston*, steered their course for the straits of Sunda, while Captain Penton in the *Medway*, and Captain Moore in the *Diamond*, took a more northern course, designing to cruise in the straits of Malacca. The general rendezvous was appointed at Batavia. As by one or other of these channels all ships from China enter the great Indian Ocean, they expected to make themselves masters of the French ships homeward-bound from thence, and which were provided with no other convoy than a fifty-gun ship. On the 25th of January, 1745, three sail appeared in sight of Commodore Barnet's division, soon after his arrival at the destined spot. The commodore and Lord Northesk had so effectually disguised their ships by painting and rigging them in the Dutch manner, that the French came within musket-shot, not doubting but that they were Dutchmen, till the commodore and Lord Northesk struck the Dutch, and hoisted English, colours; but the French were ready to fire as soon as the commodore. The French ships were laden from Canton for Europe, being about seven hundred tons, with thirty guns, and one hundred and fifty men each, richly laden with tea, china-ware, and silk. Commodore Barnet gave the French commodore a broadside, which he and his consorts returned, and a sharp engagement ensued. At the beginning of the action Lord Northesk was ordered to board one of the China-men; but some of the

the first shot from the French cut the tiller ropes of both the men of war, as they were sheering on-board, by which accident the opportunity was lost; and Commodore Barnet fearing some of the French would escape, soon prevented them. The Preston was not long in getting into her station; and in about three glasses, after a gallant resistance, the three Frenchmen struck, when the commodore took possession of the prizes, and brought the French captains and supercargoes on-board the Deptford; where he was informed by the supercargoes, that the lading of each ship would have been worth above one hundred thousand pounds sterling in France.

The Medway and Diamond had also been disguised like Dutchmen, and in their way to the Malacca straits, called at Achem, where they found a French privateer, which had been fitted out, and sent from Pondicherry to cruise in the China seas. They carried her with them through the straits, and in their passage took a French ship from Manilla, with seventy-two chests of dollars on-board, containing three thousand each, with two chests of gold worth thirty thousand pounds. Afterwards they proceeded with their prizes to the straits of Banca, where, waiting in expectation of the French ships from Canton, they saw the Calmar, a Swedish Indiaman, on-board of which was an English officer with intelligence to the lords of the admiralty of the commodore's success; upon which the Medway and Diamond resolved to go to their rendezvous at Batavia, where the whole squadron soon after joined.

In the West-Indies, Commodore Warren having taken so large a force for the northern expedition, the islands became very much exposed to the attack of an enemy, Sir Chaloner Ogle having returned to England the beginning of the year, with six men of war. Therefore, for the security of these settlements, Vice-admiral Townshend, who was then in the Mediterranean,

was ordered to proceed with a squadron of eight ships to the West-Indies. He sailed from Gibraltar on the 2d of August, and arrived before Martinico on the 3d of October, where he was joined by the Pembroke, of sixty guns, and the Woolwich of fifty.

The island of Martinico had been long in great want of provisions and stores; but the French had lately sent Commodore Macnamara from Rochfort with seven men of war to convoy two hundred sail of ships, laden with merchandise and provisions. Admiral Townshend, expecting the arrival of this fleet, waited till the 31st of October, when about seven in the morning he discovered forty sail, being the French commodore, with four ships of his squadron and part of his convoy, coming round the south point of Martinico, and close under the land. Upon this the British squadron stood towards them, and formed a line of battle. But the vice-admiral, perceiving that the French commodore endeavoured to avoid coming to an engagement, ordered a general chase, and pursued the French with all possible expedition, which succeeded so well, that several of the French ships were driven to leeward, and taken by the English. In the mean time Vice admiral Townshend pursued the French men of war, and one of them, called the Ruby, of sixty guns, carrying away her main-top-mast, the Lenox got near enough to exchange some broadsides, and soon forced her ashore in a sandy bay, under a fortification on the south side of the island. The commodore, in the Magnanime of eighty guns, got, with great difficulty, under the cannon of Fort Royal, and a battery of forty guns on the opposite shore; but in the hurry and confusion run aground, where the ship received considerable damage. Townshend spent the remainder of this and the three following days in cutting out, burning, and destroying, the merchant-ships, of which fifteen were taken, three burnt, and several bulged on the rocks, the first day

day of pursuit; and upon the whole, above thirty sail of the French were either taken, sunk, burnt, or destroyed. After this the English admiral put into Prince Rupert's bay, in the island of Dominico, about nine leagues north of Martinico, and thence sailed to Antigua, where he continued till the 9th of November; when he returned to Martinico, and so closely blocked up that island, that the inhabitants were reduced to the greatest distress for the want of provisions.

A fleet of men of war, under the command of Admiral Martin, cruised in the Bay of Biscay, to watch the motions of the French fleet in the harbour of Brest. Rear-admiral Medley sailed from Spithead with seven men of war, having the outward bound East-Indiamen and a great number of merchantmen under his convoy to a certain latitude; he was then to proceed to the Mediterranean to re-enforce Admiral Rowley who had succeeded Matthews. A violent storm overtook this large fleet on the 26th of February in Torbay, did considerable damage to many of the merchantmen, and obliged them to put back to refit; the admiral arrived with his men of war at Minorca on the 10th of April. Soon after the commander in chief proceeded to sea with twenty-four sail of the line; and, steering for Carthagená, there blocked up the Spanish fleet, by which great advantages were derived to the allies: for the Spaniards were prevented from transporting troops from Italy, or joining the French fleet. The republic of Genoa having openly declared for the French and Spaniards, and joined their army with a large body of troops, the English admiral detached a part of his fleet, under the command of Commodore Cooper, which seized and confiscated all the Genoese ships that came in their way; he also bombarded several of their towns situated on the coast, particularly St. Remo, which was laid in ruins. The commodore then proceeded to Baltia, the

the capital of Corfica, where a considerable body of malcontents were in arms, under the Marquis of Rivola. The English fleet cannonaded and bombarded the city and castle with great fury, so that at length the Marquis de Mari, who commanded in the place, and had a garrison of six hundred men, was obliged to abandon the castle, and retire to Calvi, whither he expected to be followed by the exasperated Corficans, who before the close of the year obliged the Genoese to surrender the castle of San Florenzo and the tower of Mortella.

The English cruisers and privateers in the year 1745, were very successful. Besides the valuable prizes already spoken of, Captain Ambrose of the *Rupert*, in company with the *Guernsey*, Captain Cornish, in their way from Gibraltar to Lisbon, on the 19th of January, fell in with a Spanish register ship, called the *Maria Fortuna*, of three hundred and fifty tons, sixteen guns, and sixty-four men and passengers, among whom was the governor of Paraguay. She was bound from Cadiz to Buenos Ayres, and had been only two days at sea, and was under convoy of six French men of war, commanded by M. de Caylus; but when taken was separated from them by the haziness of the weather. Her cargo cost above one hundred thousand pounds at Cadiz. A French ship of three hundred and twenty tons, twenty-four guns, and one hundred and twenty men, bound from the Havannah to Cadiz, having sixty thousand pieces of eight, some chests of gold-dust, and other rich merchandize, on-board, was taken by the *Flamorough* man of war; which also took a Spanish register ship worth fifty thousand pounds. The *Conception*, a French ship of four hundred tons, twenty guns, and three hundred and twenty-six men, bound from Carthagena to the Havannah, on-board of which were eight hundred serons of cacao, and in each a bar of gold, sixty-eight chests of silver coin, containing three hundred

hundred and ten thousand pieces of eight, wrought plate of an equal value, a complete set of church plate, a large quantity of gold buckles and snuff-boxes, a curious two-wheeled chaise of silver, the wheels, axle-tree, and other parts, of the same metal, a large quantity of pearls, diamonds, and other precious stones, and above six hundred pounds weight of gold, the whole valued at two hundred thousand pounds, was taken by the Rose man of war.

Having now gone over the naval transactions of the year 1745, it will be necessary to speak of an event that shook Great Britain to its centre. The state of the nation at this time was such, as encouraged the court of France to attempt the creating domestic commotions by means of the exiled descendants of the Stuart line. King George was in Germany, not more than eight thousand troops were at that time at home; Scotland was left without defence. Prince Charles-Edward, eldest son of him whom they stiled the pretender, or the Chevalier St. George, encouraged by the advice and assurances of Cardinal Tencin, resolved upon the desperate measure of passing over into Scotland, there publicly to lay claim to the British crown. It had been the wish of the abdicated monarch James II. to return to England even without attendants; thereby hoping to excite general compassion among those whom he could not subject by authority. His son adopted a similar sentiment, and would willingly have landed in Scotland with not more than a dozen followers in the year 1708. Charles-Edward Stuart possessed the same enterprising spirit. The malcontents in England had assured him of the general discontent which prevailed in the kingdom, and that numbers would flock to his standard as soon as it should be erected on British ground; and that great part of the Highlanders were keen for insurrection. Their natural principles were on this occasion stimulat-
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ed by the suggestions of revenge.—At the beginning of the war, a regiment of those people had been formed, and transported with the rest of the British troops to Flanders. Before they were embarked, a number of them deserted with their arms, declaring that they had been decoyed into the service, by promises and assurances that they should never be sent abroad; and this was really the case. They were overtaken by a body of horse, persuaded to submit, and brought back to London, pinioned like malefactors, and tried for desertion. Three were shot, and the rest were sent in exile to the plantations. Those who suffered were persons of some consequence in their own country; and their fate was deeply resented by the clans to which they belonged. It was considered as a national outrage: and the Highlanders, who are naturally vindictive, waited impatiently for an opportunity of vengeance. The court of France also gave him positive assurances of effectual support.

Notwithstanding these assurances, nothing could be more plain than that insurmountable obstacles lay in the way of his ambition. The union which had made England and Scotland one kingdom, had now subsisted long enough to prove the essential benefits derived to both countries, thereby commerce had spread her benign influence over each division of the island. An extended empire, vast fleets, and thriving manufactures, were the consequences of that accumulated strength obtained by the union. The prosperous state of Scotland, at this time, was sufficient to silence such cavillers, as even no proofs were strong enough to satisfy. Besides, near sixty years had now elapsed since the Scotch had changed their hereditary sovereign for an elective monarch; during that time their detestation of the tenets of popery had weakened their attachment to the house of Stuart. But the youthful Charles saw not the force of these alterations in the condition and temper of the kingdoms. His education

tion and pursuits had tended little to qualify him for the arduous enterprize in which he was about to embark. He is said to have imparted his design to only seven officers, all of whom were natives either of Scotland or Ireland. Among these were the Marquis of Tullibardine, brother to the Duke of Athol; Sir Thomas Sheridan; Macdonald, appointed quarter-master to an army which was not then raised; and other needy and desperate adventurers.

A merchant at Nantes, of Irish extraction, furnished him with a vessel mounting eighteen guns, on-board of which he and his adherents embarked on the 23d of June, 1745. He had with him arms for about eighteen hundred men, and 2,000*l.* in money. He was joined off Belleisle by a French man of war of sixty-six guns, named the *Elizabeth*, which was designed to convoy him round Ireland, and land him in the western part of Scotland. They had not been many days at sea, when they fell in with an English man of war of fifty-eight guns; she was called the *Lion*, and commanded by Captain Brett. The frigate made two attempts to rake the *Lion*, whilst engaged with the *Elizabeth*, but was soon beat off by her stern chase guns; after which she proceeded to her destination without meeting with any farther annoyance. Meanwhile, the two men of war continued an obstinate fight from five o'clock in the afternoon until ten at night, at which time the *Lion's* rigging was cut to pieces, and all her masts either shot away or greatly damaged, which gave the French ship an opportunity to sheer off, and in less than an hour she was out of sight, but was so much damaged as to reach the harbour of Brest with great difficulty. The *Lion* had forty-five of her men killed, and one hundred and seven wounded, seven of whom died soon after.

But to return to the adventurous Charles-Edward. He landed on the coast of Lochabar, on the 27th of July, and was, in a little time, joined by some chiefs

of the Highland clans, and their vassals. These chiefs had, almost from time immemorial, exercised an hereditary jurisdiction over all their tenants. The power of life and death vested in the lords of the fief or manor, by virtue of the old feudal constitution. The same kind of tenure, though stripped of some of its most offensive appendages, had been introduced into England by William the Norman, and had subsisted there, only undergoing many salutary innovations, until the reign of Charles II. when it was totally abolished. But the ancient customs, which ferociousness and barbarism had introduced into Scotland, had been confirmed to the Scotch lairds at the time of the union. From hence, a chief had the power of commanding all his vassals, and immediate death was the consequence of their disobedience. By means of these chiefs, therefore, the young adventurer soon saw himself at the head of fifteen hundred men; and invited others to join him by his manifestoes, which were dispersed throughout all the Highlands.

The regency was no sooner confirmed of the truth of his arrival, which, at first, they could scarcely be induced to believe, than Sir John Cope was ordered to oppose his progress. In the mean time, the son of the pretender marched to Perth, where the unnecessary ceremony was performed of proclaiming the Chevalier de St. George, his father, king of Great Britain; and the public money seized for his use: the same steps were taken at Dundee and other places. Prince Charles was joined by the noblemen who assumed the title of Duke of Perth, the Viscount Strathallan, Lord Nairn, Lord George Murray, and many persons of distinction, with their followers. The Marquis of Tullibardine, who had accompanied him from France, took possession of Athol, as heir of blood to the titles and estate which his younger brother enjoyed in consequence of his attainder; and met with some success in arming the tenants, for the support of that cause which he avowed.

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The rebel army being considerably augmented, though very ill provided with arms, crossed the Forth in the neighbourhood of Sterling, and advanced towards Edinburgh, where they were joined by Lord Elcho, son of the Earl of Wemys, and other persons of some distinction. On the 16th of September, 1745, Charles summoned the town to surrender. The inhabitants were divided by faction, and distracted by fear: the place was not in a posture of defence, and the magistrates would not expose the people to the uncertain issue of an assault. Several deputations were sent from the town to the pretender, in order to negotiate terms of capitulation. In the mean time, one of the gates being opened for the admission of a coach, Cameron of Lochiel, one of the most powerful of the Highland chiefs, rushed into the place with a party of his men, and secured it without opposition. Next morning the whole rebel army entered, and their prince took possession of Holyrood house in the suburbs. Then he caused his father to be proclaimed at the market-cross; there also the manifesto was read, in which the Chevalier de St. George declared his son Charles regent of his dominions, promised to dissolve the union, and redress the grievances of Scotland. His being in possession of his capital encouraged his followers, and added reputation to his arms: but the treasure belonging to the two banks of that kingdom had been previously conveyed into the castle, a strong fortress, with a good garrison, under the command of General Gueft, an old officer of experience and capacity.

In the mean time, Sir John Cope, who had pursued them to the Highlands, but declined meeting them in their descent, being now reinforced by two regiments of dragoons, resolved to march towards Edinburgh, and give them battle. The young adventurer, unwilling to give him time to retreat, attack-

ed him near Preston-pans, about twelve miles from the capital, on the 21st of September. Two thousand four hundred Highlanders half-armed, charged sword in hand with such impetuosity, that in less than ten minutes after the battle began, the king's troops were broken and totally routed. The dragoons fled in the utmost confusion at the first onset; the general officers having made some unsuccessful efforts to rally them, thought proper to consult their own safety by an expeditious retreat towards Coldstream on the Tweed. All the infantry were either killed or taken; and the colours, artillery, tents, baggage, and military chest, fell into the hands of the victor, who returned in triumph to Edinburgh. Never was victory more complete, or obtained at a smaller expence; for not above fifty of the rebels lost their lives in the engagement. Five hundred of the king's troops were killed on the field of battle; and among these Colonel Gardiner, a gallant officer, who disdained to save his life at the expence of his honour. When abandoned by his own regiment of dragoons, he alighted from his horse, joined the infantry, and fought on foot, until he fell covered with wounds, in sight of his own threshold. Prince Charles bore his good fortune with moderation. He prohibited all rejoicings for the victory he had obtained: the wounded soldiers were treated with humanity; and the officers were sent into Fife and Angus, where they were left at liberty on their parole; which the greater part of them shamefully broke in the sequel. From this victory the pretender reaped manifold and important advantages. His followers were armed, his party encouraged, and his enemies intimidated. He was supplied with a train of artillery, and a considerable sum of money, and saw himself possessed of all Scotland, except the fortresses, the reduction of which he could not pretend to undertake without proper implements and engineers.

Charles

Charles continued to reside in the palace of Holyrood-house; and took measures for cutting off the communication between the castle and the city. General Guest declared that he would demolish the city, unless the blockade should be raised, so as that provision might be carried into castle. After having waited the return of an express which he had found means to dispatch to court, he began to put his threats in execution, by firing upon the town. Some houses were beaten down, and several persons killed even at the market-cross. The citizens, alarmed at this disaster, sent a deputation to the prince, entreating him to raise the blockade; and he complied with their request. He levied a regiment in Edinburgh and the neighbourhood. He imposed taxes; seized the merchandize that was deposited in the king's warehouses at Leith, and other places; and compelled the city of Glasgow to accommodate him with a large sum, to be repaid when the peace of the kingdom should be re-established. The numbers of his followers daily increased: and he received considerable supplies of money, artillery, and ammunition, by single ships that arrived from France, where his interest seemed to rise in proportion to the success of his arms. The greater and richer part of Scotland was averse to his family and pretensions: but the people were unarmed and undisciplined, consequently passive under his dominion. By this time, however, the prince pretender was joined by the Earl of Kilmarnock, the Lords Elcho, Balmerino, Ogilvie, Pittligo; and the eldest son of Lord Lovat had begun to assemble his father's clan, in order to reinforce the victor, whose army lay encamped at Doddingston, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Kilmarnock and Balmerino were men of broken and desperate fortune: Elcho and Ogilvie were sons to the Earls of Wemyss and Airly; so that their influence was far from being extensive. Pittligo was a nobleman

nobleman of a very amiable character, as well as of great personal interest; and great dependence was placed upon the power and attachment of Lord Lovat, who had entered into private engagements with the Chevalier de St. George, though he still wore the mask of loyalty to the government, and disavowed the conduct of his son when he declared for the pretender. This old nobleman is the same Simon Fraser whom we have had occasion to mention as a partisan and emissary of the court of St. Germain's, in the year 1703. He had renounced his connexions with that family; and, in the rebellion immediately after the accession of King George I. approved himself a warm friend to the protestant succession. Since that period he had been induced by disgust and ambition, to change his principles again, and was, in secret, an enthusiast in jacobitism. He had greatly augmented his estate, and obtained a considerable interest in the Highlands, where, however, he was rather dreaded than beloved. He was bold, enterprising, vain, arbitrary, rapacious, cruel, and deceitful: but his character was chiefly marked by a species of low cunning and dissimulation, which, however, overshot his purpose, and contributed to his own ruin.

While the young pretender endeavoured to improve the advantage he had gained, the ministry of Great Britain took every possible measure to retard his progress. Six thousand Dutch troops that had come over to the assistance of the crown, were sent northward, under the command of General Wade. These troops had composed the garrisons of Tournay and Dendermond; and, when they capitulated, it was made an article of the convention, that they should not serve against France during eighteen months from that time. Their marching to suppress an insurrection of Scotch Highlanders was no infraction of the treaty. But Lord Drummond, brother to the Duke of Perth, an officer in the French service, arriving at Montrose with some piquets,

piquets, and three companies of the Scotch regiment, made a declaration, "that he came by order of the King of France, to succour his ally the Prince of Wales, regent of Scotland, and to make war against the King of England, Elector of Hanover." The Hollanders, who by their capitulation could not serve against the French king, were hereupon obliged to remain neuter, and were therefore sent back to Holland, and six thousand Hessians were brought over to supply their place. The Duke of Cumberland soon after arrived from Flanders, and was followed by another detachment of dragoons and infantry; volunteers in different parts of the kingdom employed themselves in the exercise of arms; and every county exerted a generous spirit of indignation, both against the ambition, the religion, and the allies, of the young adventurer.

Notwithstanding these preparations to crush him, Charles went forward with vigour, and resolved to make an eruption into England, which he entered by the west. On the 6th of November, Carlisle was invested, and, in less than three days, it surrendered: the keys were delivered to him at Brampton, by the mayor and aldermen on their knees. Here he found a considerable quantity of arms: his father was proclaimed King of Great Britain, and himself regent, by the magistrates in their formalities. General Wade, being apprised of his progress, decamped from Newcastle, and advanced across the country as far as Hexham, though the fields were covered with snow, and the roads almost impassable. There he received intelligence that Carlisle was reduced, and forthwith returned to his former station. In the mean time orders were issued for assembling another army in Staffordshire, under the command of Sir John Ligonier. Prince Charles, notwithstanding this formidable opposition, determined to proceed. He had received assurances from France, that a considerable body of troops would be landed on the southern coast of Britain, to make a diversion in
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his favour; and he never doubted but that he should be joined by all the English malcontents, as soon as he could penetrate into the heart of the kingdom. Leaving a small garrison in the castle of Carlisle, he advanced to Penrith, marching on foot in the Highland garb, at the head of his forces; and continued his route through Lancaster and Preston to Manchester, where, on the 29th of the month, he established his head quarters. There he was joined by about two hundred Englishmen, who were formed into a regiment, under the command of Colonel Townley. The inhabitants seemed to receive him with marks of affection; and his arrival was celebrated by illuminations, and other public rejoicings. His supposed intention was to prosecute his march by the way of Chester into Wales, where he hoped to find a great number of adherents: but all the bridges over the river Mersey being broken down, he chose the route to Stockport, and forded the river at the head of his division, though the water rose to his middle. He passed through Macclesfield and Congleton; and on the 4th of December entered the town of Derby, in which his army was quartered, and his father proclaimed with great formality. He had now advanced within 126 miles of the capital, which was filled with terror and confusion. Wade lingered in Yorkshire: the Duke of Cumberland had assumed the command of the other army assembled in the neighbourhood of Lichfield. He had marched from Stafford to Stone; so that the rebels, in turning off from Ashborne to Derby, had gained a march between him and London. Had Charles proceeded in his career with that expedition which he had hitherto used, he might perhaps, have made himself master of the metropolis, where he would have been certainly joined by a considerable number of his well-wishers, who waited impatiently for his approach: yet this exploit could not have been achieved without hazarding an engagement,
and

and running the risque of being enclosed within three armies, each greatly superior to his own in number and artillery. Orders were given for forming a camp on Finchley-common, where the king resolved to take the field in person, accompanied by the Earl of Stair; the militia of London and Middlesex were kept in readiness to march: double watches were posted at the city-gates, and signals of alarm appointed. The volunteers of the city were incorporated into a regiment: the practitioners of the law headed by the judges, the weavers of Spital-fields, and other communities, engaged in associations; and even the managers of the theatres offered to raise a body of their dependents for the service of the government. Notwithstanding these precautions and appearances of unanimity, the trading part of the city, and those concerned in the money-corporations, were overwhelmed with fear and dejection. They reposed very little confidence in the courage or discipline of their militia and volunteers: they had received intelligence that the French were employed in making preparations at Dunkirk and Calais for a descent upon England: they dreaded an insurrection of the Roman Catholics, and other friends of the house of Stuart; and they reflected that the Highlanders, of whom by this time they had conceived a most terrible idea, were within four days march of the capital. Alarmed by these considerations, they prognosticated their own ruin in the approaching revolution; and their countenances exhibited the plainest marks of horror and despair. On the other hand, the jacobites were elevated to an insolence of hope, which they were at no pains to conceal; while many people, who had no private property to lose, and thought no change for the worse, waited the issue of this crisis with the most calm indifference.

This state of suspense was of short duration. The young pretender found himself miserably disappointed

in his expectations; he had now advanced into the middle of the kingdom, and, except a few that joined him at Manchester, not a soul appeared in his behalf: one would have imagined that all the jacobites of England had been annihilated. The Welch took no step to excite an insurrection in his favour: the French made no attempt towards an invasion: his court was divided into factions: the Highland chiefs began to murmur, and their clans to be unruly: he saw himself with a handful of men hemmed in between two considerable armies, in the middle of winter, and in a country disaffected to his cause. He knew he could not proceed to the metropolis without hazarding a battle, and that a defeat would be attended with the inevitable destruction of himself and all his adherents; and he had received information that his friends and officers had assembled a body of forces in the north, superior in number to those by whom he was attended. He called a council at Derby; and proposed to advance towards London: the proposal was supported by Lord Nairn with great vehemence; but, after violent disputes, the majority determined that they should retreat to Scotland with all possible expedition. Accordingly, they abandoned Derby on the 6th of December, early in the morning, and measured back the route by which they had advanced. On the 9th their vanguard arrived at Manchester: on the 12th they entered Preston, and continued their march northwards. The Duke of Cumberland, who was encamped at Meriden, when first apprised of their retreat, detached the horse and dragoons in pursuit of them; while General Wade began his march from Ferrybridge into Lancashire, with a view of intercepting them in their route: but at Wakefield he understood that they had already reached Wigan: he, therefore, repaired to his old post at Newcastle, after having detached General Oglethorpe, with his horse and dragoons, to join those who had been sent off
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from the duke's army. They pursued with such alacrity, that they overtook the rear of the rebels, with which they skirmished, in Lancashire. The militia of Cumberland and Westmoreland were raised and armed by the duke's order, to harass them in their march. The bridges were broken down, the roads damaged, and the beacons lighted to alarm the country. Nevertheless, they retreated regularly with their small train of artillery. They were overtaken at the village of Clifton, in the neighbourhood of Penrith, by two regiments of dragoons. They alighted, and lined the hedges, in order to harass part of the enemy's rear-guard, commanded by Lord John Murray; who, at the head of the Macphersons, attacked the dragoons sword in hand, and repulsed them with some loss. On the 19th of the month, the Highland army reached Carlisle, where the majority of the English in the service of the pretender were left at their own desire. Charles, having reinforced the garrison of the place, crossed the rivers Eden and Solway into Scotland, having thus accomplished one of the most surprising retreats that ever was performed. But the most remarkable circumstance of this expedition, was the moderation and regularity with which those ferocious people conducted themselves in a country abounding with plunder. No violence was offered; no outrage committed; and they were effectually restrained from the exercise of rapine. Notwithstanding the excessive cold, the hunger, and the fatigue to which they must have been exposed, they left behind no sick, and lost a very few stragglers; but retired with deliberation, and carried off their cannon in the face of their enemy. The Duke of Cumberland invested Carlisle with his whole army on the 21st of December, and on the 30th the garrison surrendered on a sort of capitulation made with the Duke of Richmond. The prisoners, amounting to about four hundred, were imprisoned in dif-

ferent gaols in England, and the duke returned to London.

The pretender proceeded by the way of Dumfries to Glasgow, from which last city he exacted severe contributions, on account of its attachment to the government, for whose service it had raised a regiment of nine hundred men, under the command of the Earl of Home. Having continued several days at Glasgow, he advanced towards Stirling, and was joined by some forces which had been assembled in his absence by Lords Lewis Gordon and John Drummond, brothers to the Dukes of Gordon and Perth. Prince Charles now invested the castle of Stirling, in which General Blakeney commanded: but his people were so little used to enterprises of this kind, that they made very little progress in their operations.

By this time, a considerable body of forces was assembled at Edinburgh, under the conduct of General Hawley, who determined to relieve Stirling-castle, and advanced to Linlithgow on the 13th of January, 1746; next day his whole army rendezvoused at Falkirk, while the rebels were cantoned about Bannockburn. On the 17th of the month, they began their march in two columns to attack the king's forces, and had forded the water of Carven, within three miles of Hawley's camp, before he discovered their intention. Such was his obstinacy, self-conceit, or contempt of the enemy, that he slighted the repeated intelligence he had received of their motions and design, firmly believing they durst not hazard an engagement. At length, perceiving they had occupied the rising ground to the southward of Falkirk, he ordered his cavalry to advance, and drive them from the eminence; while his infantry formed, and were drawn up in order of battle. The Highlanders kept up their fire, and took aim so well, that the assailants were broke by the first volley: they retreated with precipitation, and fell in amongst the infantry, which

which were likewise discomposed by the wind and rain beating with great violence in their faces, wetting their powder, and disturbing their eye-sight. Some of the dragoons rallied, and advanced again to the charge, with part of the infantry which had not been engaged: then the pretender marched up at the head of his corps de reserve, consisting of the regiment of Lord John Drummond, and the Irish piquets. These reinforcing the Camerons and the Stuarts in the front line, immediately obliged the dragoons to give way a second time; and they again disordered the foot in their retreat. They set fire to their camp, and abandoned Falkirk with their baggage and train, which last had never reached the field of battle. The rebels followed their first blow, and great part of the royal army, after one irregular discharge, turned their backs, and fled in the utmost consternation. In all probability few or none of them would have escaped, had not General Huske, and Brigadier Cholmondeley, rallied part of some regiments, and made a gallant stand, which favoured the retreat of the rest to Falkirk, from whence they retired in confusion to Edinburgh, leaving the field of battle, with part of their tents and artillery, to the rebels: but their loss of men did not exceed three hundred, including Sir Robert Monro, Colonel Whitney, and some other officers of distinction. It was at this period, that the officers who had been taken at the battle of Preston Pans, and conveyed to Angus and Fife, finding themselves unguarded, broke their parole, and returned to Edinburgh, on pretence of their having been *forcibly released* by the inhabitants of those parts.

General Hawley, who had boasted that, with two regiments of dragoons, he would drive the rebel army from one end of the kingdom to the other, incurred abundance of censure for the disposition he made, as well as for his conduct before and after the action; but he found means to vindicate himself to
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the satisfaction of his sovereign. Nevertheless, it was judged necessary that the army in Scotland should be commanded by a general in whom the soldiers might have some confidence; and the Duke of Cumberland was chosen for this purpose. Over and above his being beloved by the army, it was suggested, that the appearance of a prince of the blood in Scotland might have a favourable effect upon the minds of the people in that kingdom; he, therefore, began his northern expedition, and headed the troops in Edinburgh, consisting of fourteen battalions of infantry, two regiments of dragoons, and twelve hundred Highlanders from Argyleshire, under the command of Colonel Campbell.

On the 31st of January, his royal highness began his march to Linlithgow; and the enemy, who had renewed the siege of Stirling-castle, not only abandoned that enterprize, but crossed the river Forth with precipitation. The Duke of Cumberland, having secured the important posts of Stirling and Perth, with the Hessian battalions, advanced with the army to Aberdeen, where he was joined by the Duke of Gordon, the Earls of Aberdeen and Findlater, the Laird of Grant, and other persons of distinction: here he remained some time to refresh his troops.

In the beginning of April, the Duke of Cumberland began his march from Aberdeen, and on the 12th passed the deep and rapid river Spey, without opposition from the rebels, though a detachment of them appeared on the opposite side. His royal highness proceeded to Nairn, where he received intelligence, that the enemy had advanced from Inverness to Culloden, about the distance of nine miles from the royal army, with intention to give him battle. The design of Charles was to march in the night from Culloden, and surprize the duke's army at day-break: for this purpose the English camp had been reconnoitred; and on the night of the 15th the Highland army

army began to march in two columns. Their design was to surround the enemy, and attack them at once on all quarters: but the length of the columns embarrassed the march, so that the army was obliged to make many halts: the men had been under arms during the whole preceding night, were faint with fatigue, and many of them overpowered with sleep. Some were unable to proceed; others dropped off unperceived in the dark; and the march was retarded in such a manner, that it would have been impossible to reach the duke's camp before sun-rise. The design being thus frustrated, the prince-pretender was with great reluctance prevailed upon by his general officers to measure back his way to Culloden; at which place he had no sooner arrived, than great numbers of his followers dispersed in quest of provision; and many, overcome with weariness and sleep, threw themselves down on the heath, and along the park walls. Their repose, however, was soon interrupted in a very disagreeable manner. Their prince, receiving information that his enemies were in full march to attack him, resolved to hazard an engagement, and ordered his troops to be formed for that purpose.

On the 16th of April, 1746, the royal army, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, began their march from Nairn, formed into five lines of three battalions each; headed by Major-general Huske on the left, Lord Sempill on the right, and Brigadier Mordaunt in the centre; flanked by the horse under the Generals Hawley and Bland, who at the same time covered the cannon on the right and left. In this order they marched about eight miles, when a detachment of Kingston's horse, and of the Highlanders, having advanced before the rest of the army, discovered the van of the rebels commanded by the young pretender, at a place called Culloden, about two miles from Inverness. Both armies immediately prepared for battle. The numbers were nearly equal, the
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duke's army consisting of 8811 men, the rebel army, including French, of 8350.

About two in the afternoon the rebels began to cannonade the king's army; but their artillery, being ill served, did little execution; while the fire from their enemies was severely felt, and occasioned great disorder. The rebels then made a push at the right of the royal army, in order to draw the troops forward; but, finding themselves disappointed, they turned their whole force on the left; falling chiefly on Barrell's and Monro's regiments, where they attempted to flank the king's front line. But this design also was defeated by the advancing of Wolfe's regiment, while in the mean time the cannon kept playing upon them with cartridge shot. General Hawley, with some Highlanders, had opened a passage through some stone walls to the right for the horse which advanced on that side; while the horse on the king's right wheeled off upon their left, dispersed their body of reserve, and met in the centre of their front line in their rear; when being repulsed in the front, and great numbers of them cut off, the rebels fell into very great confusion. A dreadful carnage was made by the cavalry on their backs; however, some part of the foot still preserved their order: but Kingston's horse, from the reserve, galloped up briskly, and, falling on the fugitives, did terrible execution. The French piquets on their left, covered the retreat of the Highlanders by a close and regular fire; and then retired to Inverness, where they surrendered themselves prisoners of war. An entire body of the rebels marched off the field with their pipes playing, and the pretender's standard displayed; the rest were routed with great slaughter; and their prince was, with reluctance, prevailed upon to retire. In less than thirty minutes a total defeat took place, with the loss of 2500 killed, wounded, and prisoners, on the part of the rebels, while the royalists lost not above 200. It has been said, that the duke refused quarter in this battle; certain it is, that many
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of the rebels, anticipating their fate if taken prisoners, would not accept of quarter; such was the behaviour of one of the Highland chiefs represented in the annexed plate, with his broken broadsword uplifted in his hand.

The vanquished adventurer rode off the field, accompanied by the Duke of Perth, Lord Elcho, and a few horsemen; he crossed the water of Nairn, and retired to the house of a gentleman in Strutharrick, where he conferred with old Lord Lovat; then he dismissed his followers, and wandered about a wretched and solitary fugitive, among the isles and mountains for the space of five months, during which he underwent such a series of dangers, hardships, and misery, as no other person ever out-lived. Thus, in one short hour, all his hope vanished, and the rebellion was entirely extinguished. One would almost imagine, the conductors of this desperate enterprise had conspired their own destruction, as they certainly neglected every step that might have contributed to their safety or success. They might have opposed the Duke of Cumberland at the passage of the Spey; they might, by proper conduct, have afterwards attacked his camp in the night, with a good prospect of success. As they were weakened with hunger and fatigue, they might have retired to the hills and fastnesses, where they would have found plenty of live cattle for provision, recruited their regiments, and been joined by a strong reinforcement, which was actually in full march to their assistance. But they were distracted by dissensions and jealousies; they obeyed the dictates of despair, and wilfully devoted themselves to ruin and death. When the news of the battle arrived in England, the nation was transported with joy, and extolled the Duke of Cumberland as a hero and deliverer. Both houses of parliament congratulated his majesty on the auspicious event. They decreed, in the most solemn manner, their public

thanks to his royal highness, which were transmitted to him by the speakers; and the commons, by bill, added 25,000*l.* per annum to his former revenue.

Immediately after the decisive action at Culloden, the duke took possession of Inverness, where six-and-thirty deserters, convicted by a court-martial, were ordered to be executed: then he detached several parties to ravage the country. One of these apprehended the Lady Mackintosh, who was sent prisoner to Inverness. They did not plunder her house, but drove away her cattle, though her husband was actually in the service of government. The castle of Lord Lovat was destroyed. The French prisoners were sent to Carlisle and Penrith: Kilmarnock, Balmerino, Cromartie, and his son the Lord Macleod, were conveyed by sea to London; and those of an inferior rank were confined in different prisons. The Marquis of Tullibardine, together with a brother of the Earl of Dunmore, were seized, and transported to the Tower of London, to which the Earl of Traquair had been committed on suspicion. In a few months after the battle of Culloden, Murray, the pretender's secretary, was apprehended; and the eldest son of Lord Lovat, having surrendered himself, was imprisoned in the castle of Edinburgh. In a word, all the gaols of Great Britain, from the capital northwards, were filled with those unfortunate captives; and great numbers of them were crowded together in the holds of ships, where they perished in the most deplorable manner, for want of necessaries, air, and exercise. Some rebel chiefs escaped in two French frigates, which had arrived on the coast of Lochaber about the end of April, and engaged three vessels belonging to his Britannic majesty, which they obliged to retire. Others embarked on-board of a ship on the coast of Buchan; and were conveyed to Norway, from thence they travelled to Sweden. In the month of May, the Duke of Cumberland advanced with the army
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into the Highlands, as far as Fort Augustus, where he encamped; and sent off detachments on all hands, to hunt down the fugitives, and lay waste the country with fire and sword. The castles of Glengary and Lochiel were plundered and burned: every house, hut, or habitation, met with the same fate, without distinction: all the cattle and provision were carried off: the men were either shot upon the mountains, like wild beasts, or put to death in cold blood, without form of trial: the women, after having seen their husbands and fathers murdered, were subjected to brutal violation, and then turned out naked, with their children, to starve on the barren heaths. One whole family was enclosed in a barn, and consumed to ashes. Those ministers of vengeance were so alert in the execution of their office, that in a few days there was neither house, cottage, man, nor beast, to be seen in the compass of fifty miles: all was ruin, silence, and desolation.

The humane reader cannot reflect upon such a scene without grief and horror: what then must have been the sensation of the fugitive prince, when he beheld these spectacles of woe, the dismal fruit of his ambition? He was now surrounded by armed troops, that chased him from hill to dale, from rock to cavern, and from shore to shore. Sometimes he lurked in caves and cottages, without attendants, or any other support but that which the poorest peasant could supply. Sometimes he was rowed in fisher-boats from isle to isle, among the Hebrides, and often in sight of his pursuers. For some days he appeared in woman's attire, and even passed through the midst of his enemies unknown. But, understanding his disguise was discovered, he assumed the habit of a travelling mountaineer, and wandered about among the woods and heaths, with a matted beard and squalid looks, exposed to hunger, thirst, and weariness, and in continual danger of being apprehended. He was obliged to

trust his life to the fidelity of above fifty individuals, and many of these were in the lowest paths of fortune. They knew that a price of 30,000*l.* was set upon his head; and that, by betraying him, they should enjoy wealth and affluence: but they detested the thought of obtaining riches on such infamous terms, and ministered to his necessities, with the utmost zeal and fidelity, even at the hazard of their own destruction. In the course of these peregrinations, he was more than once hemmed in by his pursuers, in such a manner as seemed to preclude all possibility of escaping: yet, he was never abandoned by his hope and recollection: he still found some expedient that saved him from captivity and death; and through the whole course of his distresses maintained the most amazing equanimity and good humour. At length a privateer of St. Malo, hired by the young Sheridan and some other Irish adherents, arrived in Lochnannach; and on the 20th of September, this unfortunate prince embarked in the habit which he wore for disguise. His eye was hollow, his visage wan, and his constitution greatly impaired by famine and fatigue. He was accompanied by Cameron of Lochiel, and his brother, with a few other exiles. They set sail for France, and after having passed unseen, by means of a thick fog, through a British squadron commanded by Admiral Lestock, and been chased by two English ships of war, arrived in safety at Roscau, near Morlaix, in Bretagne. Perhaps he would have found it still more difficult to escape, had not the vigilance and eagerness of the government been relaxed, in consequence of a report, that he had already fallen among some persons that were slain by a volley from one of the duke's detachments.

The rebellion being quelled, the legislature resolved to make examples of those who had been concerned in disturbing the peace of their country. In June, an act of attainder was passed against the principal persons who

who had embarked in that desperate undertaking; and courts were opened in different parts of England, for the trial of the prisoners. Seventeen persons who had borne arms in the rebel army were executed at Kennington Common in the neighbourhood of London, and suffered with great constancy under the dreadful tortures which their sentence prescribed: nine were put to death, in the same manner, at Carlisle; six at Brumpton, seven at Penrith, and eleven at York: of these a considerable number were gentlemen, and had acted as officers; about fifty had been executed as deserters in different parts of Scotland: eighty-one suffered the pains of the law as traitors. A few obtained pardons, and a considerable number were transported to the plantations. Bills of indictment for high-treason were found by the county of Surry against the Earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, and Lord Balmerino. These noblemen were tried by their peers in Westminster-hall, the lord chancellor presiding as lord high steward for the occasion. The two earls confessed their crimes, and in pathetic speeches recommended themselves to his majesty's mercy. Lord Balmerino pleaded not guilty: he denied his having been at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment, but this exception was overruled: then he moved a point of law in arrest of judgment, and was allowed to be heard by his counsel. They might have expatiated on the hardships of being tried by an *ex post facto* law, and claimed the privilege of trial in the country where the act of treason was said to have been committed. But Balmerino waved this plea, and submitted to the court, which pronounced sentence of death upon him and his two associates. Cromartie's life was spared; but the other two were beheaded, in the month of August, on Tower-hill. Kilmarnock was a nobleman of fine personal accomplishments; he had been educated in revolution principles, and engaged in the rebellion,

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partly from the desperate situation of his fortune, and partly from resentment to the government, on his being deprived of a pension which he had for some time enjoyed. He was convinced of his having acted criminally, and died with marks of penitence and contrition. Balmerino had been bred to arms, and acted upon principle: he was gallant, brave, rough, and resolute; he eyed the implements of death with the most careless familiarity, and seemed to triumph in his sufferings. In November, Mr. Ratcliff, the titular Earl of Derwentwater, who had been taken in a ship bound to Scotland, was arraigned on a former sentence, passed against him in the year 1716: he refused to acknowledge the authority of the court, and pleaded that he was a subject of France, honoured with a commission in the service of his most christian majesty. The identity of his person being proved, a rule was made for his execution; and on the 8th of December he suffered decapitation, with the most perfect composure and serenity. Lord Lovat, now turned of fourscore, was impeached by the commons, and tried in Westminster-hall before the lord high steward. John Murray, secretary to the prince-pretender, and some of his own domestics, appearing against him, he was convicted of high-treason, and condemned. Notwithstanding his age, infirmities, and the recollection of his conscience, which was supposed to be not altogether void of offence, he died like an old Roman, exclaiming, *Dulce et decorum pro patria mori*; "It is pleasing and honourable to die for one's country." He surveyed the crowd with attention, examined the axe, jested with the executioner, and laid his head upon the block with the utmost indifference. From this last scene of his life one would have concluded, that he had approved himself a patriot from his youth, and never deviated from the paths of virtue.—Thus ended a rebellion, dictated by youth and presumption, and conducted without skill or ability. The family
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of Stuart found fortune become more averse at every new solicitation of her favours.

For the sake of relating these important events, in one connected series, we have been obliged to depart from the order of time, and must therefore now go back to the proceedings of parliament, which met on the 17th of October, 1745, and for a considerable time were entirely taken up in quieting the intestine commotions of the kingdom. In the latter end of January, 1746, new convulsions arose in the ministry. The Earl of Granville had made an effort to retrieve his influence in the cabinet, and his sovereign favoured his pretensions. The Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pelham, who knew his aspiring spirit, and dreaded his superior talents, refused to admit such a colleague into the administration: they even resolved to strengthen their party, by introducing fresh auxiliaries into the offices of state. Some of these were personally disagreeable to his majesty, who accordingly rejected the suit by which they were recommended. The two brothers with all their adherents, immediately resigned their employments. The Earl of Granville was appointed secretary of state, and resumed the reins of administration; but finding himself unequal to the accumulated opposition that preponderated against him, foreseeing he should not be able to secure the supplies in parliament, and dreading the consequences of that confusion which his restoration had already produced, he, in three days, voluntarily quitted the helm; and his majesty acquiesced in the measures proposed by the opposite party. The seals were re-delivered to the Duke of Newcastle and the Earl of Harrington: Mr. Pelham and all the rest who had resigned, were re-instated in their respective employments; and offices were conferred on several individuals, who had never before been in the service of government. Among these Mr. Pitt was appointed paymaster of the forces. This gentleman

gentleman had been originally designed for the army, and, for some time, bore a commission as cornet of horse; but fate reserved him for a more important station. In point of fortune he was barely qualified to be elected member of parliament, when he obtained a seat in the house of commons, where he soon outshone all his compatriots. The Dukes of Marlborough, who died about this time, bequeathed him 10,000*l.* professedly for the services he had rendered his country as a senator, during the ten years he had sat in the house. In the discussion of every national question that was agitated, he displayed a surprising extent of political knowledge, and irresistible energy of argument. His harangues abounded with majestic and forcible images. He was a perfect master of the passions of his audience, who were led captive by the fascinating power of his manly eloquence. All the thunder of Demosthenes burst forth from this consummate orator; and England, which had before given birth to many great and astonishing geniuses, in sciences, and in arts, now saw one with a capacity equally penetrating and dignified, appear to support its sinking state. But the surprising endowments both natural and acquired, which centred in Mr. Pitt, formed but a part of his character; his incorruptible integrity threw a lustre over his talents, and caused them to be exerted strenuously and uniformly in the interest of his country. His ambition was that of a great mind, freed from the dross of avarice, and superior to the blandishments of pleasure. With these qualities he had become great, although far removed from the sunshine of a court; and possessing these he was ever superior to the mean arts, which are generally called in aid to obtain and preserve the station of distinction.

These arrangements in the ministry being adjusted, the house of commons voted forty thousand seamen for the service of the year 1746, at four pounds per
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man per month; nearly the same number of land-forces, besides fifteen regiments raised by the nobility, on account of the rebellion, and about twelve thousand marines. They settled funds for the maintenance of the Dutch and Hessian troops that were in England, as well as for the subsidy to the landgrave. They granted 300,000*l.* to the King of Sardinia; 400,000*l.* to the Queen of Hungary; 310,000*l.* to defray the expence of eighteen thousand Hanoverians; about 33,000*l.* in subsidies to the Electors of Mentz and Cologne; and 500,000*l.* in a vote of credit and confidence to his majesty. The whole charge of the current year amounted to 7,250,000*l.* which was raised by the land and malt taxes, annuities on the additional duties imposed on glass and spirituous liquors, a lottery, a deduction from the sinking-fund, and exchequer bills, chargeable on the first aids that should be granted in the next session of parliament.

The flame of war on the continent did not expire at the election of an emperor, and the re-establishment of peace among the princes of the empire. On the contrary, it raged with double violence in consequence of these events; for the force that was before divided being now united in one body, exerted itself with great vigour and rapidity. The states-general were overwhelmed with consternation. Notwithstanding the pains they had taken to avoid a war, and the condescension with which they had soothed and supplicated the French monarch in repeated embassies and memorials, they saw themselves stripped of their barrier, and once more in danger of being overwhelmed by that ambitious nation. Brussels had been reduced during the winter; so that the enemy were in possession of all the Austrian Netherlands, except a few fortresses. Great part of the forces belonging to the republic were restricted from action by capitulations to which they had subscribed. The states were divided in their councils between the two factions

which had long subsisted. They trembled at the prospect of seeing Zealand invaded in the spring. The Orange party loudly called for an augmentation of their forces by sea and land, that they might prosecute the war with vigour. The common people, fond of novelty, dazzled by the splendor of greatness, and fully persuaded that nothing but a chief was wanting to their security, demanded the Prince of Orange as a stadtholder; and even mingled menaces with their demands. The opposition faction dreaded alike the power of a stadtholder, the neighbourhood of a French army, and the seditious disposition of the populace. An ambassador was sent to London with representations of the imminent dangers which threatened the republic, and he was ordered to solicit in the most pressing terms the assistance of his Britannic majesty, that the allies might have a superiority in the Netherlands by the beginning of the campaign. The king was very well disposed to comply with their request; but the rebellion in his kingdom, and the dissensions in his cabinet, had retarded the supplies, and embarrassed him so much, that he found it impossible to make those early preparations that were necessary to check the career of the enemy.

The King of France, with his general, Count Saxe, took the field in the latter end of April, at the head of one hundred and twenty thousand men, and advanced towards the allies, who, to the number of four-and-forty thousand, were entrenched behind the Demer, under the conduct of the Austrian general Bathiani, who retired before them, and took post in the neighbourhood of Breda, the capital of Dutch Brabant. Saxe immediately invested Antwerp, which in a few days was surrendered. Then he appeared before the strong town of Mons in Hainault, with an irresistible train of artillery, an immense quantity of bombs and warlike implements. He carried on his approaches with such unabating impetuosity, that, notwithstanding
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a very vigorous defence, the garrison was obliged to capitulate on the 27th of June, in about eight-and-twenty days after the place had been invested. Sieges were not now carried on by the tedious method of sapping. The French king found it much more expeditious and effectual to bring into the field a prodigious train of battering cannon, and enormous mortars, that kept up such a fire as no garrison could sustain, and discharged such an incessant hail of bombs and bullets, as in a very little time reduced to ruins the place, with all its fortifications. St. Guislain and Charleroy met with the same fate of Mons and Antwerp; so that by the middle of July the French king was absolute master of Flanders, Brabant, and Hainault.

Prince Charles of Lorraine had, by this time, assumed the command of the confederate army at Terheyde, which being reinforced by the Hessian troops from Scotland, and a fresh body of Austrians under Count Palfi, amounted to eighty-seven thousand men, including the Dutch forces commanded by the Prince of Waldeck. The generals, supposing the next storm would fall upon Namur, marched towards that place, and took post in an advantageous situation on the 18th of July, in sight of the French army, which was encamped at Gemblours; here they remained till the 8th of August, when a detachment of the enemy, commanded by Count Lowendahl, took possession of Huy, where he found a large magazine belonging to the confederates; and their communication with Maestricht was cut off; Marshal Saxe, on the other side, took his measures so well, that they were utterly deprived of all subsistence. Then Prince Charles, retiring across the Maese, abandoned Namur to the efforts of the enemy, by whom it was immediately invested. The trenches were opened on the 2d of September, and the garrison, consisting of seven thousand Austrians, defended themselves with equal skill

and resolution: but the cannonading and bombardment were so terrible, that in a few days, the place was converted into a heap of rubbish; and on the 23d of the month the French monarch took possession of this strong fortress, which had formerly sustained such dreadful attacks. Meanwhile the allied army encamped at Maestricht were joined by Sir John Ligonier, with some British and Bavarian battalions; and Prince Charles resolved to give the enemy battle. With this view he passed the Maese on the 13th of September, and advanced towards Marshal Saxe, whom he found so advantageously posted at Tongres, that he thought proper to march back to Maestricht. On the 26th of September he crossed the Jaar in his retreat; and his rear was attacked by the enemy, who were repulsed. But Count Saxe being reinforced by a body of troops, under the Count de Clermont, determined to bring the confederates to an engagement. On the 13th of the month he passed the Jaar; while they took possession of the villages of Liers, Warem, and Rocroux, drew up their forces in order of battle, and made preparations for giving him a warm reception. On the 1st of October the enemy advanced in three columns; and a terrible cannonading began about noon. At two o'clock Prince Waldeck on the left was charged with great fury; and after an obstinate defence overpowered by numbers. The villages were attacked in columns, and as one brigade was repulsed another succeeded; so that the allies were obliged to abandon these posts, and retreat towards Maestricht, with the loss of five thousand men and thirty pieces of artillery. The victory, however, cost the French general a much greater number of lives; and was attended with no solid advantage. This action terminated the campaign. The allies passing the Maese, took up their winter quarters in the duchies of Limburg and Luxembourg; while the French cantoned their troops in the places which they had newly conquered.

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The campaign in Italy was altogether unfavourable to the French and Spaniards. The house of Austria being no longer pressed on the side of Germany, was enabled to make the stronger efforts in this country; and the British subsidy encouraged the King of Sardinia to act with redoubled vivacity. Thus Italy, that once gave laws to the world, now saw the troops of Germany and Spain, by turns, enter into her territories; and, after various combats, she, at last, saw the imperialists become masters. The Spaniards and French lost the most flourishing armies, notwithstanding the excellent conduct of the Prince of Conti their general; and, at last, after a bloody victory obtained over the Spaniards at St. Lazaro, the beautiful city of Genoa, which had sided with Spain, was obliged to submit to the conquerors, to suffer all the indignities imposed upon them, and to pay a most severe contribution. The city of Genoa had, for ages before, maintained its own laws, and boasted of liberty. Besides its inner wall, it had another formed by a chain of rocks of more than two leagues extent; but both being built in those times when modern fortification was yet unknown, it was not thought, by its senate, capable of making a proper resistance. Upon submitting, the unhappy Italians too soon found that no mercy was to be expected from the court of Vienna, which had ever patronized oppression. More than a million sterling was demanded for a contribution; a tax, the payment of which must have utterly ruined the city. The magistrates did all in their power to pay the exorbitant sum demanded; and the German troops exercised every inhumanity in exacting it. The conquerors lived upon the people, and treated them with an insolence which was natural to them as conquerors, and as Germans. This republic little thought at the beginning of the war for the succession of the house of Austria, that she should be made the victim of it; but, when the principal powers in Europe take

arms,

arms, there is no little state that ought not to tremble. The Genoese were, at length, reduced to despair, and were resolved to make a last effort for the recovery of their liberty and independance. The Austrians took the cannon of the city, in order to transport them to Provence, where their arms had already penetrated. The Genoese themselves were obliged to draw those cannon, which they had once considered as the defence and ornament of their citadel. It was on this occasion that an Austrian officer struck one of the citizens, who had been employed in this laborious task. This blow served to animate the people with their former spirit of freedom. They took up arms in every quarter of the town, and surprized some battalions of the Austrians, surrounded others, and cut them in pieces. The senate, uncertain how to proceed, neither encouraged nor stopped the citizens, who drove the Austrians entirely out, and then appointed commanders, and guarded the walls with the utmost regularity.

The reduction of Cape-Breton had encouraged the ministry to project this year the conquest of Quebec. Commissions were sent to the governors of the British colonies in North America, empowering them to raise companies to join the armament from England; and eight thousand troops were actually raised in consequence of these directions; while a powerful squadron and transports, having six regiments on-board, were prepared at Portsmouth for this expedition. But their departure was postponed by unaccountable delays, until the season was judged too far advanced to risque the great ships on the boisterous coast of North America. However, that the armament might not be wholly useless to the nation, it was employed in making a descent on the coast of Brittany, on the supposition that Port l'Orient, the repository of all the stores and ships belonging to the French East-India company, might be surprized; or, that this invasion

vasion would alarm the enemy, and by making a diversion, facilitate the operations of Count Brown, the Austrian general in Provence; as well as draw a considerable detachment from Marshal Saxe's army in Flanders, which was superior to that of the allies.

The naval force intended for this service, consisted of sixteen great ships, and eight frigates, besides bomb-ketches and store-ships, commanded by Richard Lestock, appointed admiral of the blue division. Six battalions of land-troops, with a detachment of matrosses and bombardiers, were embarked in thirty transports, under the conduct of Lieutenant-general Sinclair. The whole fleet sailed from Plymouth on the 14th of September, 1746: after a prosperous voyage, they found themselves at eight in the evening, on the 18th of the same month, within four leagues of Port Louis, where they met with Commodore Cotes, who had founded the coast, and fixed on a proper place for landing, about ten miles from l'Orient. Port Louis is a maritime town, and considerable port of the ocean, situated upon the southern coast of the province of Brittany, in 47 deg. 53 min. north latitude, and in 14 deg. 16 min. east longitude, at the mouth of the river Blavet, which name it formerly had. Port l'Orient, famous for the French East-India company's trade, is upon the same river near this place. Port Louis was ceded to the French by the treaty of Vervin in 1598, and Louis XIII. rebuilt it with a well fortified citadel, and gave it the name it bears. The admiral, being unacquainted with the coast, did not think it adviseable to approach it in the night. The next day, General Sinclair went on-board the admiral, to concert with him the proper measures for the disembarkation: when it was agreed, that the two floops, the bomb-tender, and cutter, should go in next morning as near shore as possible, to cover the landing. Early in the morning on the 20th, a large body of militia and some cavalry appearing on
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the shore, the admiral thought proper to add three forty-gun ships to what he had already ordered to cover the landing, which was performed in a bay about the distance of ten miles from Port l'Orient. The militia, reinforced by some detachments from different regiments, were assembled to the number of two thousand, and seemed resolved to oppose the disembarkation. However, their intentions were frustrated by a finesse, that did no small credit to the general. There were three places convenient for the debarking of land forces. The farthest from l'Orient was a sandy bank, bounded on one side by the river of Quimperlay; on the other, by a rising ground, which separated it from a second little bay. This second was divided from the third landing place, by an arm of the sea, which runs above a mile up the country, and by an eminence on which were planted two cannon. This arm of the sea was only fordable at low water. The two last mentioned landing places were lined with militia and gardes de côte: the farthest from l'Orient was unoccupied. The wind blew along the coast towards l'Orient: all the boats, in which were between five and six hundred men (for they contained no more), were ordered to rendezvous at one of the Folstone cutters, which was anchored the most to windward, opposite the bay, adjoining to the river of Quimperlay. The wind blew fresh, and it required a considerable time for some of the boats to reach the place of rendezvous; as their being filled with men prevented the seamen from setting any sail. Whilst the rowers were pulling with difficulty against the wind, the enemy perceived it was the intention to land in the unoccupied bay, the most distant from the town. They therefore determined to change their disposition. The body that was posted in the second bay, marched round the rising ground above-mentioned, and drew up on the bay, next to the river of Quimperlay, opposite to the rendezvous of the boats, where they

they were so well covered by a bank of sand, that the cannon of the frigates could not annoy them. The corps which was drawn up on the third landing-place, marched off, with an intent, as it was high water, to go round the arm of the sea above-mentioned, and to take possession of the middle landing-place, which the other body had quitted. But, as a march of that length required some time, the general resolved to seize the opportunity, and to land at the middle-place, before the body on their march could possibly reach it. To prevent any annoyance from the body which was drawn up in the first mentioned bay, he ordered the boats to row directly towards that bay, till they should come almost within musket-shot of the enemy, then to turn short and row before the wind with the utmost expedition, to the second bay or landing-place; and there to form the troops instantly. Left the battery of two cannon planted on the eminence, upon the opposite side of the arm of the sea, should play upon the boats crowded with troops, and at so small a distance, he desired that two armed vessels might be ordered to slip their cables, to fire upon the small battery, if possible, to drive the gunners from their guns. Previous to the setting out of the boats, these several orders were executed, and the batteries were abandoned. The corps of the enemy waited for the troops where they were posted, till the boats made the turn to row along the shore, and then ran in the utmost confusion and disorder towards the second bay, where they perceived it was their design to land. But the forces were landed and formed without the loss of a man, before a single person of their broken corps could reach the bay to oppose them. The general pursued the militia about two miles. On the 21st, the day after the debarkation, the army marched in two columns to l'Orient; General Sinclair led one by the way of Plemure; General Offarrel with the other by the great road to

Quimperlay; the latter did not come up till seven at night, having been attacked on his march by a body composed of militia, and regular forces, which threw the troops under his command into disorder. Some of the men were wounded, and Lieutenant-colonel Henry Erskine, quarter-master general, dangerously. General Sinclair, about five in the evening, proceeded to a windmill within cannon shot of the town.

The engineers were immediately sent to reconnoitre the place; who reported on their return, that the town was defended only by a thin wall, with loopholes in it, without a fossé; and from a place they had pitched upon for a battery, they could either make a breach, or lay the town in ashes in twenty-four hours. The following day the general, accompanied by Mr. Armstrong the director-general, and Captain Watson the engineer, went to reconnoitre the place; and in consequence of the assurance given him the night before, and now repeated, he sent a letter by an officer to summon the town to surrender.

He was visited by a deputation from the town, which offered to admit the British forces on certain conditions. However, the terms being rejected, the inhabitants prepared for a vigorous defence; and the English general resolved to besiege the place in form; though he had neither time, artillery, nor forces sufficient for such an enterprize. His cannon amounted to no more than a few field-pieces, and he was obliged to wait for two iron guns, which the sailors dragged up from the shipping. Could an assault have been given the first night after his arrival, when the town was filled with terror and confusion, and destitute of regular troops, in all probability it would have been easily taken by scalade. But the reduction of it was rendered impracticable by delay. The ramparts were mounted with cannon from the ships in the harbour; new works were raised with
great

great industry; the garrison was reinforced by several bodies of regular troops, and great numbers were assembling from all parts; so that the British forces were in danger of being surrounded in an enemy's country.

The engineers being asked at a council of war held on-board the admiral, if they thought it practicable, either to burn the town or make a breach in the wall, what artillery, &c. would be wanted, and what time required? their answer was, that with two twelve-pounders, and a ten-inch mortar, they engaged to make a proper breach, or lay the town in ashes in twenty-four hours time. By the 25th in the morning the battery was completed, and the mortar and two twelve-pounders placed on it by the sailors. This morning also a few carcasses and bombs were thrown into the town, but no cannon were fired, the commander of the artillery having forgot to order the grate for heating the ball to be brought up; the engineers also now despaired of being able to make a breach, at the distance they had placed the battery.

The officers of the artillery insisted they could heat the balls without a furnace; but the general opposed their beginning to fire, having then discovered, that through the neglect of the officers to whose care it belonged, there was not a quantity of ammunition sufficient to keep a continued fire. In the forenoon, however, two other twelve-pounders and the furnace were brought to camp by the sailors and a body of marines; one-third of the seamen of the whole fleet, besides the marines and boats' crews, were employed in these services. However, in the evening, there was such a report made of the situation of affairs as determined the general to call a council of war, which was held in the camp before l'Orient; consisting of Lieutenant-general Sinclair; Brigadiers Offarrel, Graham, Richbell; Thomas Armstrong, chief engineer, and commander of the artillery, &c. Mr. Thomas Armstrong represented to the council, that stores and am-

munition came in so slowly, he did not see any probability of their being supplied with ammunition so expeditiously as was necessary for making a proper use of the battery erected the night before, and opened that morning; and, being apprehensive that the service intended cannot be accomplished so soon as was at first expected, there being but thirty-four rounds for each of the four pieces of cannon, and none of the shells or carcasses for the ten-inch mortar left, and considering the number of batteries opened already upon them, and daily likely to be opened, he thought it his duty to represent this to General Sinclair, as he now does to the council of war.

Brigadier Richbell thought it adviseable not to continue the siege of l'Orient, for the following reasons. It appeared to him, from the opinion of the engineers, that they had from the first made a wrong calculation. That by the great fatigues the troops had suffered from the badness of the weather, and the great sickness among them, which daily increased, and the uncertainty of being supplied with proper provisions, he was apprehensive, should the siege be carried on, it might be attended with fatal consequences to the troops. Brigadiers Graham and Offarrel spoke to much the same purpose, and agreed to the reembarking the troops; the latter adding, as the principle motive to encourage the undertaking of this enterprize, was founded on the short time in which the engineers proposed to have carried it into execution, in which he found they were disappointed; and as their communication with the fleet might be interrupted, he thought it reasonable, after having expended all the ammunition for the heavy artillery, to desist from the enterprize.

General Sinclair then closed the council of war, by saying, that in consequence of his majesty's orders to Admiral Lestock, and him, to make a descent on the western coast of France, he agreed with
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the admiral to view the strength of the town of l'Orient, provided he would land the troops betwixt Quimperlay river and Port Louis; which he having performed, he advanced to the place with the utmost expedition; and upon the assurances given in the strongest terms, by the engineers to the council of war held on-board the *Princeffa*, after they had reconnoitred the place, he agreed to make the attempt: since which time it was well known to the whole army how assiduous he had been in carrying on a scheme he had entered into solely on the great dependence he had on the engineers in their own science, and not from any skill of his own. But now, finding it was the unanimous opinion of the general officers and engineers here present, that the undertaking should be laid aside, he complied with it.

The troops after having sustained very considerable damage, since their first landing, were re-imbarked. The general expected reinforcements from England, and was resolved to wait a little longer for their arrival, in hopes of being able to annoy the enemy more effectually. In the beginning of October the fleet sailed to Quiberon Bay, where they took a French man of war; and a detachment of the forces being landed, took possession of a fort on the peninsula, while the little islands of Houvat and Heydic were reduced by the sailors. In this situation the admiral and general continued till the 17th day of the month, when the forts being dismantled, and the troops re-imbarked, the fleet sailed from the French coast: the admiral returned to England, and the transports with the soldiers proceeded to Ireland, where they arrived in safety.

The French ministry, in order to defeat the expedition of Commodore Barnet against their trade in the East-Indies, forwarded a commission to M. de Bourdonnois, governor of the islands of France and Bourbon,

Bourbon, by which he was appointed commander in chief of the king's ships, with a power of controuling the captains of the company's ships. These extensive powers he received in January, 1746; and about the same time Commodore Barnet died, when the command of the British squadron in the East-Indies devolved on Captain Peyton, who sent the Deptford and Diamond men of war to England; upon being re-enforced with the Harwich and Winchester of fifty guns, and the Lively, of twenty, one of the ships which he had taken, he put into commission, and gave the command of her to Captain Griffiths; she mounted forty guns, and received the name of the Medway's Prize. The French commander had eight ships of force, one of which, the *Insulaire*, was lost in the Ganges with two hundred and eighty Europeans; notwithstanding which, the force of the French somewhat exceeded that of the English. On the 25th of June the two fleets came within sight of each other off the coast of Coromandel, and an engagement began at four o'clock in the afternoon, and was maintained with no great spirit on either side until seven o'clock, when night parted the combatants. The next day neither side appeared forward to renew the action. In the afternoon the English commodore summoned a council of war, when the ignominious resolution was taken to sail away from the French fleet, and proceed to Trincomale bay, on the north-east part of the island of Ceylon, upon which Bourdonnois brought his squadron back to Pondicherry. In this rencounter fourteen were killed and forty-six wounded on-board the English ships, and the French had twenty-seven killed and fifty-three wounded. After this the two squadrons lay inactive until the middle of August, when the French fleet arrived in Madras-road, and fired on the *Princess Mary*, one of the company's ships; this fire was returned by the ship and the fort. Each of the French ships gave a broad-
side

sided as she stood to the northward, and another as she returned to the southward. After this, the French admiral stood for Pondicherry with an intention to offer battle to the English; but Peyton had got round him to the northward, and on the 23d of August stood into Pullicat road, where he was informed of the proceedings of the French fleet, and of the course they had steered. This information, instead of exciting him to chastise the enemy for the insults offered to the settlement, made him resolve to abandon Madras to its fate, and withdraw himself from a station, which could only be kept by beating the French fleet; he therefore sailed for the bay of Bengal, without informing the governor or any one on shore with the course he intended to steer. This dastardly behaviour of Peyton emboldened Bourdonnois to attack the place.

Madras, or Fort St. George, the capital of the English company's dominions on the coast of Coromandel, has its last-mentioned name from the fort in that city, and is situated in thirteen degrees north latitude, and in eighty degrees east longitude. Thus it is near four thousand eight hundred miles to the eastward of London, so that the sun visits them about six hours before he rises in England; and there is so little difference in the length of the days, that the English always reckon it to be six o'clock at sun-rising and at sun-set. This place, which lies seventy miles to the north of Pondicherry, is situated on one of the most incommodious spots imaginable; for the sea beats perpetually with prodigious violence on the land on which it stands; there is no fresh water within a mile of it; in the rainy season it is subject to inundations, from a river of salt water that runs behind it; and the sun from April to September is exceeding hot, the sea-breezes alone rendering it habitable. The war carried on by the company at Bombay and Bengal from the year 1685 to 1689, against the subjects of the Mogul, was a considerable advantage
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to Madras: for the tranquility which reigned there, and its vicinity to the diamond mines of Golconda, where good purchases are frequently to be made, caused a prodigious resort of Indian merchants to this place, and contributed to render it populous and flourishing.

The fort is a regular square extending about a hundred yards on each side, and has four bastions built with what is there called iron stone, from its being of the colour of unwrought iron, and very rough. The fort is defended by no ditch, and the walls are arched and hollowed within. It has two gates, one of which opens to the east, and the other to the west. The former, which is towards the sea, is but small, and is only guarded by a file of musqueteers; but the western gate, which opens towards the land, is pretty large, and defended by the main guard, the soldiers belonging to it lying on the right and left under the wall, which, being hollow, answers the purpose of a guard-house. In the middle of the fort is the governor's house, in which are apartments for the company's servants.

On the 3d of September the French commander arrived before the town, having three thousand and two hundred European troops on-board his ships, five hundred Coffrys, and a considerable number of sepoys and peons, natives of the coast. The French had previously landed a body of troops amounting to six hundred men, twenty miles southward of Madras; these were marched over-land to St. Thomé, within three miles of the town; they covered the debarkation of the main body, which the governor, Nicolas Morse, was unable to oppose, his garrison being too inconsiderable to admit of a detachment being made large enough for such a purpose. Madras was therefore immediately invested on the land side, whilst its harbour was effectually blocked up at sea. Most of the Asiatic inhabitants deserted their habitations, and fled into the country with their most valuable effects. The nabob of Arcot all this while is said to have been induced

induced to keep aloof, and render no assistance to his friends or allies, through the powerful influence of French gold.

The defenceless condition of the place had been represented to the East-India directors by Commodore Barnet in very strong terms; but no steps had been taken to render it more secure. But had the fortifications been in the best order, they would have been of little use, without a sufficient number of men to defend them, which was the situation of affairs at that time: for though, long before the commencement of the war, assurances had been sent from England by the committee board to Governor Morse, that the garrison should be augmented to six hundred Europeans, exclusive of the gun-room crew, yet not more than one-half of that number were actually in the place at the time of its investment, many of which were incapable of service. Some Portuguese deserters from Goa, served indeed to increase the muster-roll, but were destitute alike of activity and courage. In short, not more than two hundred men could be mustered, whose fidelity and bravery were to be relied on, independent of the crew of the *Princess Mary*, which amounted to eighty more. Nor was the place better provided with officers than soldiers; and though they had near two hundred pieces of cannon, yet these were rendered ineffectual for want of skilful engineers to direct their fire, as well as men to play them. A scarcity of military stores completed the perplexities with which the besieged were encompassed.

The advantages on the side of the French were as great as were the difficulties which the English had to encounter. The intense heat of that parching climate was at this time reduced to its mildest temperature; an ample supply of all things necessary for a siege was at hand, and the commander in chief, who generally diffuses a portion of his own spirit from the second in

command down to the meanest drudge in his camp, was a man of superior skill, brave, enterprising, and unweakened. No time was lost in making approaches, and in three days after the batteries were opened, seven hundred shells were thrown into the town. This vigorous assault soon intimidated those of the garrison, who were not bound to defend the place either from the attachments which arise out of national affinities, or personal principles of honour. All the mercenaries soon became only anxious to escape from that devoted spot, and sought every opportunity of deserting, so that some of the batteries presently became defenceless. On the 9th of August, in the afternoon, the governor and council received advice, that the French were preparing to raise a large battery of eighteen-pounders, and had made a general debarkation of their seamen to assist in a general assault; upon which, the inhabitants became clamorous for a capitulation.

All this time the British Squadron in that quarter, so far from exerting that ability which they derived from having an equality of force to that of the French, had withdrawn, and left the besieged in utter ignorance of the place of its rendezvous. The nabob of Arcot too, who had a force sufficient to oblige the French to raise the siege, quietly permitted them to complete their conquest. The governor and council, thus deprived of all hope of relief, sent out a flag of truce to the French commander, and terms of surrender were soon after adjusted. It was agreed that a detachment of French troops should be put into possession of the town, whilst the main body remained in camp. The magazines and store-houses were delivered over to French officers and commissaries, and the English soldiers and sailors were carried on-board the French ships in the road, until a ransom was paid, amounting to one million one hundred thousand pagodas, or 421,666l. 13s. 4d. sterling, besides a very considerable

considerable private present to M. de Bourdonnois, who upon the fulfilment of those terms agreed to evacuate the place, and reinstate the English in full possession of their presidency. This agreement, however, was not observed on the part of the French; Du Pleix, the French governor in India, annulled the capitulation. The English, and the inhabitants of Madras, who relied upon the rights of nations, were struck with astonishment at this infraction of the treaty, and word of honour given by Bourdonnois. But their indignation was raised to its highest pitch, when Du Pleix destroyed the black-town, by laying it in ruins. This act of wanton barbarity was greatly injurious to the innocent colonists, without being of the least advantage to the French. The ransom which should have been received was lost, and the French name became detestable throughout all India.

On the 2d of October, the seven French ships which lay in the road of Madras, having taken on-board what quantity of money, goods, ammunition, and stores, they thought proper, sailed for Pondicherry, with a design to attack Fort St. David, and entirely expel the English from that coast. But they had no sooner got to sea than a violent storm overtook them. The Duke of Orleans, their second ship of force, and two others, foundered. The Achilles, and three other ships, lost all their masts. The Mermaid, and Advice snow, which had belonged to the English East-India company, but had been taken in Madras road, were both lost. In this storm twelve hundred men perished, and all farther attempts to annoy the English by sea were effectually baffled.

However, this did not prevent the French from attempting Fort St. David by land, the place of the greatest consequence to the English on that coast next to Fort St. George, to which it is subordinate. It is situated five leagues to the southward of Pondicherry, and was purchased by the governor of Fort

St. George for the East-India company in 1686, for the sum of 35,000*l*. The fort is strong; and Mr. Hynd, the governor, had been indefatigable in strengthening it with new works; its territories extended eight miles along the shore, and four miles within the land. On this occasion a large body of Indian militia were taken into pay. In the beginning of December, Du Pleix marched down almost the whole garrison of Pondicherry, to the amount of a thousand regular troops, two hundred trained peons, and some others which arrived, within a mile of the bound-hedge of Fort St. David, having with them a large train of artillery. Upon the approach of the enemy, the English governor detached a large body of Indians, with orders to harraßs the French during the night; and at day-break the next morning he began a regular engagement. At the first onset the French forced their way quite to the garden-house, where they were attacked by a body of Moors, and one hundred regulars from the garrison, and obliged to retreat with great precipitation, leaving two hundred of their number slain, among whom were four officers of distinction. They likewise abandoned all their tents and ammunition: six camels, two mortars with their shells, two chests of arms, four drums, and all their provisions, fell into the hands of the English. This disaster did not hinder the French from making fresh preparations as soon as they returned to Pondicherry, to possess themselves of Fort St. David; but the arrival of Commodore Griffin with three sixty-gun ships, one of fifty, and one of forty guns, the beginning of the year 1747, obliged them to desist from all offensive war.

The proceedings of the British fleet in the West-Indies were not more honourable than in the East. Vice-admiral Davers commanded on that station; who, having received intelligence that a large fleet of French merchantmen, under convoy of four men
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of war, were on their way from Europe to Martinico, ordered Commodore Mitchel in the *Strafford*, of sixty guns; with the *Lenox*, of sixty-four, Captain Laurence; the *Plymouth* and *Worcester*, sixty guns each; the *Milford*, of forty-four; and the *Drake* sloop; to cruise to the eastward of that island, in order to intercept them. On the 3d of August, about three in the afternoon, the *Lenox* first descried forty sail of ships to leeward, and soon after the whole fleet appeared in sight. It consisted of one man of war of seventy-four guns, one of sixty-four, one of fifty-four, and one of forty-four, and sixty sail of merchantmen, and was commanded by M. de Conflans. About seven o'clock in the evening Commodore Mitchell made a signal to speak with all his ships; and, they being brought in, each captain was asked whether it appeared advisable to bear down upon the enemy and engage them that night, or lie by until next morning? The general opinion favoured the latter conduct, whereupon it was agreed that the English squadron should keep in sight during the night, and to windward, and be ready to engage at break of day. The next morning, when a judicious and spirited attack would most probably have been crowned with glorious success, the commodore shewed so strong a dislike to engage the enemy, that the whole day was spent without nearing them. The next day at seven in the morning the two squadrons were within two leagues of each other. M. de Conflans formed his men of war in line of battle, and appeared determined to try the event of an action, notwithstanding his inferiority in number of ships. It should seem that this firmness in the Frenchman disconcerted Mitchell; for about four in the afternoon, when the breeze freshened, and the ardour of all on-board the British ships was strongly excited by a prospect of an immediate engagement, this dastardly commander made a signal to haul on a wind, and shorten sail. By this time they were within
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three miles of the French ships, who, surprized at such a conduct, gave chase. About eight o'clock two of the enemy's ships were close under the lee quarter of the *Lenox*, and poured in a broadside, which was returned with great spirit, and an engagement was maintained for an hour and a half, when the French bore away; their merchantmen having by this time safely reached their port. The panic which had seized this commander was so great, that at night he ordered his squadron to put out their lights and make sail, because the French were following them.

On the 13th of October, Vice-admiral Davers died of a fever at Jamaica, when the chief command devolved on this *magnanimous* officer; during the short time in which he presided, the trade of the Leeward Islands suffered essentially, from the depredations committed by the French privateers, whilst the British men of war were ranged out of their proper stations, with a view to intercept some rich vessels from the Spanish main, instead of being constantly employed in cruising to windward of the British islands, for the protection of trade.

As soon as the conduct of this officer was known to government, Commodore Smith was sent out to supersede him. He was afterwards tried by a court-martial for his misbehaviour when in sight of the French fleet, and for neglecting the service of his station; and though, according to the express law of war, such rank cowardice and flagrant neglect, made his life become forfeit to his injured country; yet such were the moderation and lenity of these times, that he was only mulcted five years pay, and judged incapable of serving again in the royal navy. At this time, such a shameful want of spirit and resolution appeared in many commanders at sea, as fatally tarnished the glory of the British arms; and whilst Great Britain possessed an acknowledged superiority at sea, such was the

the languid manner in which it was employed, that little national benefit was derived therefrom.

M. de Conflans, whom we have seen arrive in safety at Martinico, in his passage home, in September, fell in with the English Leeward Islands trade, under convoy of the Woolwich and Severn men of war of fifty guns each. After an obstinate engagement of two hours, he compelled the Severn to strike, and took a few merchantmen, but the rest escaped.

The naval transactions in the European seas afforded nothing very splendid, but they contributed essentially to the benefit of the common cause. In the Mediterranean, Vice-admiral Medley rendered great service to the Austrian general at the siege of Antibes; and the British fleet was very vigilant along the coast of Spain, and in the gulph of Genoa, where they intercepted several Spanish, Genoese, and Neapolitan vessels, with military stores and provisions for the forces in Italy: at the same time Commodore Townsend was stationed with six men of war off the island of Corsica, to encourage the malcontents to shake off their subjection to the Genoese. The fleet in the channel was under the command of Vice-admiral Martin, and was very active in repelling French privateers and cruisers. The Portland man of war of fifty guns, Captain Stevens, being on a cruise on the 26th of February, fell in with the Augusta, a French man of war of fifty guns, lately come out of Brest on a cruise. The Frenchman immediately bore down within pistol-shot of the Portland, and hoisted his proper colours; the Englishman did the same, and the battle was immediately joined, and maintained yard-arm and yard arm for three hours and a half, when the Augusta, being greatly disabled, struck. She had forty-seven men killed, and ninety-four wounded; Captain Stevens lost only five men killed, and fourteen wounded. He brought his prize into Plymouth. The same ship on the 19th of November, fell in with the Subtile, a French frigate

frigate of twenty-six guns, and one hundred and ninety-four men, which he took off Ushant, and brought into Torbay.—The Nottingham, of sixty guns, and four hundred men, commanded by Captain Saumarez, cruising off Cape Clear, on the 11th of October, fell in with the Mars of sixty-four guns, and five hundred men, commanded by M. de Colombe, being one of the ships that had separated from d'Anville's fleet in the storm off Newfoundland. She was returning to Brest. After an engagement of two hours, in which the Mars had twenty-three killed and nineteen wounded, she struck; on-board the Nottingham, only three men were killed, and nine wounded. On the 24th of November, the Namur chased into the British squadron, another ship of d'Anville's fleet, named the Mercury; she had been converted into an hospital-ship, and being a good sailer, got ahead of the fleet, which was on their return.—On the 26th of December, the Gloucester of fifty guns, Captain Saunders, and the Lark, of forty guns, Captain Cheap, fell in with and took the Fort de Nantz, a Spanish galleon, of thirty-two guns and two hundred men, from Vera Cruz, and the Havannah, both bound for Cadiz: their freight consisted of one hundred and fifty chests of silver registered, each chest containing about three thousand dollars, a great quantity of gold and silver unregistered, the whole amounting to 300,000*l.* sterling.

The captures made by the French this year were as follow, viz. One man of war of fifty guns, a sloop of war, eight privateers, and three hundred and eighteen merchantmen in the European seas, which with those in America, made the whole number of prizes taken this year by the French, consist of one man of war of fifty guns, two sloops of war, nine privateers, one East-Indiaman, and four hundred and sixty-six merchant vessels; in all four hundred and seventy-nine; making the whole number of British ships and vessels taken

taken by the French, since the declaration of hostilities, amount to eleven hundred and twenty-two. The Spaniards this year took one hundred and five British vessels in the European seas, and seventy-eight in America, in all one hundred and eighty-three; which made the whole number of British ships and vessels taken by the Spaniards, since the 23d of October 1739, amount to one thousand seventy-one; and those taken in the year 1746 by the French and Spaniards, to consist of six hundred and sixty-two.

The captures made by Great Britain were as follow, viz. nine privateers, four register ships, and fifteen other Spanish vessels in the European seas, which with the captures in America, made the whole loss sustained by the Spaniards, during the year 1746 to consist in twenty-two privateers, ten register ships, and fifty-six other merchantile vessels; in all eighty-eight. These made the whole number of Spanish ships and vessels taken by the English since the commencement of the war to amount to one thousand and sixty.—The captures from the French were four men of war, fifty-three privateers, and two hundred and three merchantile vessels in the European seas, besides seven sloops in the East-Indies, in all two hundred and seventy; making together with the captures in America, the whole number of prizes taken from the French, in the course of the year, to consist of seven men of war, ninety-one privateers, twenty-three Turkey ships, five Guineamen, one hundred and forty-three Martinico and St. Domingo ships, twenty-one Newfoundland ships, seven sloops belonging to the French company in the East-Indies, and one hundred and thirteen other merchantile vessels, in all four hundred and ten; which were sixty-nine short of the prizes taken in the same year by the French alone, and one hundred and sixty-four short of those taken by the French and Spaniards jointly. The whole number of prizes

taken from the French from the 24th of March 1744, amounted to eleven hundred and sixty; being thirty-eight more than those taken by the French.

The parliament met on the 18th of November, 1746. The king exhorted both houses to concert with all possible expedition the proper measures for pursuing the war with vigour, that the confederate army in the Netherlands might be seasonably augmented: he, likewise, gave them to understand, that the funds appropriated for the support of his civil government had for some years past fallen short of the revenue intended and granted by parliament; and said he relied on their known affection to find out some method to make good this deficiency. The commons, having considered the estimates, voted forty thousand seamen for the service of the ensuing year, and about sixty thousand land-forces, including eleven thousand five hundred marines. They granted four hundred and thirty-three thousand pounds to the Empress Queen of Hungary; three hundred thousand pounds to the King of Sardinia; four hundred and ten thousand pounds for the maintenance of eighteen thousand Hanoverian auxiliaries; one hundred and sixty-one thousand six hundred and seven pounds for six thousand Hessians; subsidies to the Electors of Cologne, Mentz, and Bavaria; and the sum of five hundred thousand pounds to enable his majesty to prosecute the war with advantage. In a word, the supplies amounted to 9,425,254*l.* a sum almost incredible, if we consider how the kingdom had been already drained of its treasure. It was raised by the usual taxes, reinforced with new impositions on windows, carriages, and spirituous liquors, a lottery, and a loan from the sinking-fund.

The king, in order to exhibit a specimen of his desire to diminish the public expence, ordered the third and fourth troops of his life-guards to be disbanded, and reduced three regiments of horse to the
quality

quality of dragoons. These important matters being settled, the legislature set about establishing several salutary regulations in Scotland. The highlanders, who had till this time continued to wear the old military dress of the Romans, and who always went armed, were restrained in the use both of their dress and their weapons. To compensate for which, they were admitted to a participation of that liberty which their fellow-subjects of the British empire enjoyed, by an act of parliament, which took away the heretable jurisdictions in Scotland, extended the influence, benefit, and protection, of the king's laws and courts of justice, to all his majesty's subjects in Scotland, and rendered the union more complete. Hereby all heretable jurisdiction of judiciary, and all regalities, other than the office of high-constable of Scotland, were, from lady-day 1748, abrogated, totally dissolved, and extinguished; reasonable pecuniary compensations being made to the possessors of such heretable jurisdictions. All tenure of land by wardship, which was a heavy grievance, and subjected minors to the absolute controul of their feudal lords in many cases, was totally abolished by this salutary statute, which may be termed a new Magna Charta for Scotland.

The operations of the campaign had been concerted in the winter at the Hague, between the Duke of Cumberland and the states-general, who were by this time generally convinced of the intention of France to encroach upon their territories. They, therefore, determined to take effectual measures against that restless and ambitious neighbour. The allied powers agreed to assemble a vast army in the Netherlands; and it was resolved that the Austrians and the Piedmontese should once more penetrate into Provence. The Dutch patriots, however, were not roused into this exertion, until all their remonstrances had failed at the court of Versailles, until they had been urged by repeated memorials of the English ambassador,

and stimulated by the immediate danger to which their country was exposed: for France was by this time possessed of all the Austrian Netherlands, and seemed bent upon penetrating into the territories of the United Provinces. In February, 1747, the Duke of Cumberland began to assemble the allied forces; and in the latter end of March they took the field in three separate bodies. His royal highness, with the English, Hanoverians, and Hessians, fixed his head-quarters at the village of Tilberg; the Prince of Waldeck was posted with the Dutch troops at Breda; and Marshal Bathiani collected the Austrians and Bavarians in the neighbourhood of Venlo. The whole army amounted to one hundred and twenty thousand men, who lay inactive six weeks, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and almost destitute of forage and provision. Count Saxe, by this time created Marshal-general of France, continued his troops within their cantonments at Bruges, Antwerp, and Brussels, declaring that, when the allied army should be weakened by sickness and mortality, he would convince the Duke of Cumberland, that the first duty of a general is to provide for the health and preservation of his troops. In April this fortunate commander took the field, at the head of one hundred and forty thousand men; Count Clermont commanded a separate body of nineteen battalions and thirty squadrons. Count Lowendahl was detached on the 16th of the month, with twenty-seven thousand men, to invade Dutch Flanders: he entered Dutch Brabant, and invested the town and fortress of Sluys, the garrison of which surrendered prisoners of war on the 19th of April. This was likewise the fate of Sas-van-Ghent; while the Marquis de Contades, with another detachment, reduced the forts Perle and Leifkenshoek, with the town of Philippine, even within hearing of the confederate army. The fort of Sanberg was vigorously defended by two English battalions: but they were
overpowered,

overpowered, and obliged to retire to Welfthoorden; and Count Lowendahl undertook the siege of Hultst, which was shamefully surrendered by La Roque, the Dutch governor, though he knew that a reinforcement of nine battalions was on their march to his relief. Then the French general took possession of Axel and Terneuse, and began to prepare flat-bottomed boats for a descent on the island of Zealand. The Dutch were now struck with consternation. They saw the enemy at their doors, and owed their immediate preservation to the British Squadron stationed at the Swin, under the command of Commodore Mitchel, who, by means of his sloops, tenders, and small craft, took such measures as defeated the intention of Lowendahl. The common people in Zealand, being reduced to despair, began to clamour loudly against their governors, as if they had not taken the proper measures for their security. The friends of the Prince of Orange did not neglect this opportunity of promoting his interest. They encouraged their discontent, and exaggerated the danger: they reminded them of the year 1672, when the French king was at the gates of Amsterdam, and the republic was saved by the choice of a stadtholder: they exhorted them to turn their eyes on the descendant of those heroes who had established the liberty and independence of the united provinces: they extolled his virtue and ability; his generosity, his justice, his unshaken love to his country. The people in several towns, inflamed by such representations to tumult and sedition, compelled their magistrates to declare the Prince of Orange stadtholder. He himself, in a letter to the states of Zealand, offered his services for the defence of the province. On the 28th of April he was nominated Captain-General and Admiral of Zealand. Their example was followed by Rotterdam and the whole Province of Holland; and on the 2d of May, the Prince of Orange was, in the assembly of the states-general,

neral, invested with the power and dignity of Stadtholder, Captain-General, and Admiral, of the United Provinces. The vigorous consequences of this resolution immediately appeared. All commerce and contracts with the French were prohibited: the peasants were armed and exercised: a resolution passed for making a considerable augmentation of the army: a council of war was established for enquiring into the conduct of the governors who had given up the frontier places; and orders were issued to commence hostilities against the French, both by sea and land.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Cumberland took post with his whole army between the two Nethe, to cover Bergen-op-Zoom and Maestricht; and Marshal Saxe called in his detachments, with a view to hazard a general engagement. In the latter end of May, the French king arrived at Brussels; and his general resolved to undertake the siege of Maestricht. For this purpose he advanced towards Louvain; and the confederates perceiving his drift, began their march to take post between the town and the enemy. On the 20th of June, they took possession of their ground, and were drawn up in order of battle, with their right at Bilsen, and their left extending to Wirle, within a mile of Maestricht, having in the front of their left wing the village of Laffeldt, in which they posted several battalions of British infantry. The French had taken possession of the heights of Herdeeren, immediately above the allies; and both armies cannonaded each other till the evening. In the morning, the enemy's infantry marched down the hill, in a prodigious column, and attacked the village of Laffeldt, which was well fortified, and defended with amazing obstinacy. The assailants suffered terribly in their approach, from the cannon of the confederates, which was served with surprising dexterity and success; and they met with such a warm reception from the British musquetry as they could not withstand: but, when they were
broken

broken and dispersed, fresh brigades succeeded with astonishing perseverance. The confederates were driven out of the village: yet, being sustained by three regiments, they measured back their ground, and repulsed the enemy with great slaughter. Nevertheless, Count Saxe continued pouring in other battalions, and the French regained and maintained their footing in the village, after it had been three times lost and carried. The action was chiefly confined to this post, where the field exhibited a horrible scene of carnage. At noon the Duke of Cumberland ordered the whole left wing to advance against the enemy, whose infantry gave way: Prince Waldeck led up the centre: Marshal Bathiani made a motion with the right wing towards Herdeeren, and victory seemed ready to declare for the confederates, when the fortune of the day took a sudden turn to their prejudice. Several squadrons of Dutch horse, posted in the centre, gave way, and flying at full gallop, overthrew five battalions of infantry that were advancing from the body of reserve. The French cavalry charged them with great impetuosity, increasing the confusion that was already produced, and penetrating through the lines of the allied army, which was thus divided about the centre. The Duke of Cumberland, who exerted himself with equal courage and activity in attempting to remedy this disorder, was in danger of being taken; and the defeat would in all probability have been total, had not Sir John Ligonier taken the resolution of sacrificing himself and a part of the troops to the safety of the army. At the head of three British regiments of dragoons, and some squadrons of imperial horse, he charged the whole line of the French cavalry, with such intrepidity and success, that he overthrew all that opposed him, and made such a diversion as enabled the Duke of Cumberland to effect an orderly retreat to Maestricht. He himself was taken by a French carbineer, after his horse had been killed:

killed: but the regiments he commanded retired with deliberation. The confederates retreated to Maestricht, without having sustained much damage from the pursuit, and even brought off all their artillery, except sixteen pieces of cannon. Their loss did not exceed six thousand men killed and taken: whereas the French general purchased the victory at a much greater expence. The common cause of the confederate powers is said to have suffered from the pride and ignorance of their generals. On the eve of the battle, when the detachment of Count Clermont appeared on the hill of Herdcren, Marshal Bathiani asked permission of the Duke of Cumberland to attack them before they should be reinforced, declaring he would answer for the success of the enterprise. No regard was paid to this proposal: but the superior asked in his turn, where the marshal would be in case he should be wanted? He replied, "I shall always be found at the head of my troops;" and retired in disgust. The subsequent disposition has likewise been blamed, inasmuch as not above one-half of the army could act, while the enemy exerted their whole force.

The confederates passed the Maese, and encamped in the duchy of Limburg, so as to cover Maestricht; while the French King remained with his army in the neighbourhood of Tongres. Marshal Saxe having amused the allies with marches and counter-marches, at length detached Count Lowendahl with thirty-six thousand men to besiege Bergen-op-Zoom, the strongest fortification of Dutch Brabant, the favourite work of the famous engineer Cohorn, never conquered, and generally esteemed invincible. It was secured with a garrison of three thousand men, and well provided with artillery, ammunition; and magazines. The enemy appeared before it on the 12th of July, and summoned the governor to surrender. The prince of Saxe-Hildburghausen was sent to its relief, with twenty battalions and fourteen squadrons of the troops that could

could be most conveniently assembled; he entered the lines of Bergen-op-Zoom, where he remained in expectation of a strong reinforcement from the confederate army; and the old Baron Cronstrom, whom the stadtholder had appointed governor of Brabant, assumed the command of the garrison. The besiegers carried on their operations with great vivacity; and the troops in the town defended it with equal vigour. The eyes of all Europe were turned upon this important siege: Count Lowendahl received divers reinforcements; and a considerable body of troops was detached from the allied army, under the command of Baron Schwartzemberg, to co-operate with the Prince of Saxe Hildburghausen. The French general lost a great number of men by the close and continual fire of the besieged; while he, in his turn, opened such a number of batteries, and plied them so warmly, that the defences began to give way. From the 16th of July to the 15th of September, the siege produced a scene of horror and destruction: desperate sallies were made, and mines sprung with the most dreadful effects: the works began to be shattered; the town was laid in ashes; the trenches were filled with carnage: nothing was seen but fire and smoke; nothing was heard but one continued roar of bombs and cannon. But still the damage fell chiefly on the besiegers, who were slain in heaps; while the garrison suffered very little, and could be occasionally relieved or reinforced from the lines. In a word, it was generally believed that Count Lowendahl would be baffled in his endeavours; and by this belief the governor of Bergen-op-Zoom seems to have been lulled into a blind security. At length, some inconsiderable breaches were made in one ravelin and two bastions, and these the French general resolved to storm, though Cronstrom believed they were impracticable; and on that supposition presumed that the enemy would not attempt an assault. For this very reason Count Lowendahl resolved to ha-

zard the attack, before the preparations should be made for his reception. He accordingly regulated his dispositions, and at four o'clock in the morning, on the 16th of September, the signal was made for the assault. A prodigious quantity of bombs being thrown into the ravelin, his troops threw themselves into the fossé, mounted the breaches, forced open a sally-port, and entered the place almost without resistance. In a word, they had time to extend themselves along the curtains, and form in order of battle, before the garrison could be assembled. Cronstrom was asleep, and the soldiers upon duty had been surprized by the suddenness and impetuosity of the attack. Though the French had taken possession of the ramparts, they did not gain the town without opposition. Two battalions of the Scottish troops, in the pay of the states-general, were assembled in the market-place, and attacked them with such fury, that they were driven from street to street, until fresh reinforcements arriving, compelled the Scots to retreat in their turn; yet they disputed every inch of the ground, and fought until two-thirds of them were killed upon the spot. Then they brought off the old governor, abandoning the town to the enemy: the troops that were encamped in the lines retreated with great precipitation, all the forts in the neighbourhood immediately surrendered to the victors, who now became masters of the whole navigation of the Schelde. The French king was no sooner informed of Lowendahl's success, than he promoted him to the rank of Marshal of France; appointed Count Saxe governor of the conquered Netherlands; and returned in triumph to Versailles. In a little time after this transaction, both armies were distributed into winter quarters, and the Duke of Cumberland embarked for England.

In Italy, the French arms did not triumph with equal success, though Marshal de Belleisle saw himself

self at the head of a powerful army in Provence. In April he passed the Var without opposition, and took possession of Nice. He met with little or no resistance in reducing Montalban, Villafranca, and Ventimiglia; while General Brown, with twenty-eight thousand Austrians, retired towards Final and Savona. In the mean time, another large body, under Count Schuylemberg, who had succeeded the Marquis de Botta, co-operated with fifteen thousand Piedmontese in an attempt to recover the city of Genoa. The French king had sent thither supplies, succours, and engineers, with the Duke de Boufflers, as ambassador to the republic, who likewise acted as commander in chief of the forces employed for its defence. The Austrian general assembled his troops in the Milanese: having forced the passage of the Bochetta on the 13th of January, he advanced into the territories of Genoa, and the Riviera was ravaged without mercy. On the last day of March he appeared before the city, at the head of forty thousand men, and summoned the revoltors to lay down their arms. The answer he received was, That the republic of Genoa had fifty thousand men in arms, two hundred and sixty cannon, thirty-four mortars, with abundance of ammunition and provision; that they would defend their liberty with their last blood, and be buried in the ruins of their capital, rather than submit to the clemency of the court of Vienna, except by an honourable capitulation, guaranteed by the kings of Great Britain and Sardinia, the republic of Venice, and the United Provinces. In the beginning of May, Genoa was invested on all sides; a furious sally was made by the Duke de Boufflers, who drove the besiegers from their posts; but the Austrians rallying he was repulsed in his turn, with the loss of seven hundred men. General Schuylemberg carried on his operations with such skill, vigour, and intrepidity, that he made himself master of the suburbs of Bisagno; and in all pro-

bability would have reduced the city, had he not been obliged to desist, in consequence of the repeated remonstrances made by the King of Sardinia and Count Brown, who represented the necessity of his abandoning his enterprize, and drawing off his army, to cover Piedmont and Lombardy from the efforts of Marshal Belleisle. Accordingly, he raised the siege on the 10th of June, and returned into the Milanese, in order to join his Sardinian majesty; while the Genoese made an irruption into the Parmesan and Placentin, where they committed terrible outrages, in revenge for the mischiefs they had undergone.

While Marshal Belleisle remained at Ventimiglia, his brother, at the head of thirty-four thousand French and Spaniards, attempted to penetrate into Piedmont; on the 6th of July he arrived at the pass of Exilles, a strong fortress on the frontiers of Dauphiné, situated on the north side of the river Doria. The defence of this important post the King of Sardinia had committed to the care of the Count de Brigueras, who formed an encampment behind the lines, with fourteen battalions of Piedmontese and Austrians, while divers detachments were posted along all the passes of the Alps. On the 8th of the month, the Piedmontese entrenchments were attacked by the Chevalier de Belleisle, brother to the marshal, with incredible intrepidity; but the columns were repulsed with great loss in three successive attacks. Impatient of this obstinate opposition, and determined not to survive a miscarriage, this impetuous general seized a pair of colours, and advancing at the head of his troops, through a prodigious fire, pitched them with his own hand on the enemy's entrenchments. At that instant he fell dead, having received two musquet balls and the thrust of a bayonet in his body. The assailants were so much dispirited by the death of their commander, that they forthwith gave way, and retreated with precipitation towards Sestrieres, having lost near five thousand

thousand men in the attack. The marshal was no sooner informed of his brother's misfortune, than he retreated towards the Var, to join the troops from Exilles, while the King of Sardinia, having assembled an army of seventy thousand men, threatened Dauphiné with an invasion; but the excessive rains prevented the execution of his design. General Leutrum was detached with twenty battalions to drive the French from Ventimiglia; but Belleisle marching back, that scheme was likewise frustrated; and thus ended the campaign.

In this manner was the French king baffled in his projects upon Italy; nor was he more fortunate in his naval operations. During the long administration of Cardinal Fleury, the improvement of the French marine made no part of his system of government, on which account he never excited the jealousy of the maritime states against France. The British navy consisted of ninety-two ships of the line, thirty-five fifty-gun ships, and one hundred and seventeen frigates, from sixteen to forty guns. Notwithstanding this unprecedented degree of strength, the French by dint of superior vigilance and address, had carried on their commerce during the war with little loss; had seldom been worsted, and never disgraced.

The miscarriage of the French fleet which was sent to America the preceding year, had not discouraged France from attempting the recovery of Cape Breton, the importance of which to their possessions in Canada they were fully sensible of. A fleet was therefore prepared in the spring of the year 1747, to proceed to America, and the command given to M. de la Jonquiere. With this force they flattered themselves with the hopes, not only of regaining what they had lost, but of annexing Acadia to their possessions, when they should be assisted by the strength which they could draw from Canada. The designs of this enterprising nation did not stop here. In the east they
meant

meant to push their conquests, and had already in idea, dispossessed their rivals of every fort and factory which they held in those extensive regions. For this purpose another squadron was prepared, to be commanded by M. de St. George, who was to succeed Bourdonnois.

These two squadrons were to put to sea together, and proceed with the trade ships destined both for the eastern and western worlds, so far as their courses were the same.

The English ministry was apprized of these armaments, and resolved to intercept both. A fleet was therefore got ready, the command of which was given to Vice admiral Anson and Rear-admiral Warren; it sailed from Plymouth on the 9th of April, proceeded to Cape Finisterre, on the coast of Galicia, and there cruised in expectation of the enemy. On the 3d of May, the cape bearing S. E. distant twenty-four leagues, the expected fleet appeared in sight, commanded by La Jonquiere and St. George, consisting of six large ships of war, as many frigates, and four armed vessels equipped by their East-India company, having under their convoy about thirty ships laden with merchandize. Those prepared for war immediately shortened sail, and formed in a line of battle; while the rest, under the protection of six frigates, proceeded on their voyage with all the sail they could carry. The British squadron was likewise drawn up in line of battle; but Mr. Warren perceiving that the enemy began to sheer off, now their convoy was at a considerable distance, advised Admiral Anson to haul in the signal for the line, and hoist another for giving chase and engaging, otherwise the French would, in all probability, escape by favour of the night. The proposal was embraced; and the signal for the whole fleet to chase and engage, *without any regard to the line of battle*, was thrown out; soon after which the engagement was begun by the Centurion, who had got
up

up with the sternmost ship of the French about four o'clock in the afternoon. Two of the largest French ships bore down to the assistance of the ship which was attacked. The *Namur*, *Defiance*, and *Windsor*, being the next headmost ships, soon entered into action with five French ships, and a terrible fire was kept up on both sides. The *Centurion* soon lost her main-top-mast, which occasioned her to drop astern to refit, which was no sooner done than Captain Denis brought his ship again into action. Captain Grenville of the *Defiance* bravely bore down to the assistance of the *Namur*, who was sustaining an unequal contest with the French ships, and bringing his ship on her starboard bow, relieved her from the fire of one of the enemy's ships, by receiving it into his own. After a very sharp contest the three British ships had so disabled their five antagonists that they would infallibly become an easy prey to that part of the British fleet which was yet astern; the *Namur*, *Defiance*, and *Windsor*, therefore, made sail ahead to prevent the van of the French from escaping. In the mean time Rear-admiral Warren, in the *Devonshire*, came up with and engaged the French commodore *La Jonquiere*, in the *Serieux*. As he approached, the Frenchman saluted him with a terrible fire, to which he made no return until he was within pistol shot, when his great guns dealt such havock to his adversary as obliged her presently to strike. No soon had the rear-admiral made himself master of this prize, than he made up to the other French commander in the *Invincible*, although a ship of much superior force to his own, but her main-top-mast had been already shot away by the *Namur*. As soon as he had discharged his first broadside, Captain William Montague, in the *Bristol*, bore down to second him, and presently dismasted the *Invincible*; and the furious assault that was made upon her, both by the *Devonshire* and *Bristol*, struck her men with such terror that they

were

were incapable of standing to their guns. The spirit with which our captains were animated on this occasion, appears from the following circumstance. When the Bristol had begun to engage with the Invincible, Captain Fincher, in the Pembroke, attempted to get in between her and the French ship, but, there not being room enough, the commander of the Pembroke hailed the Bristol, and bid her put her helm a-starboard, or his ship would run foul of her; to which Captain Montague replied, "Run foul of me, and be d——; neither you, nor any man in the world, shall come between me and my enemy." When the Invincible fired only her musquetry, Captain Montague left her to be picked up by the ships astern, when commanding his sails to be filled again, he said, "My boys, we will have another of them;" and immediately gave chase to two of the enemy, which were spreading all their sail to get away; but he presently reached the Diamond of fifty-six guns, and, after an engagement within pistol shot, which lasted near an hour and three quarters, the enemy being dismasted, and one of her upper-deck guns bursting, and her rigging shattered to pieces, she struck. When the Bristol's lieutenant went on-board, he was astonished at the scene of destruction which presented itself; her poop and quarter-deck were like a slaughter-house, streaming with blood, and strewed with mangled limbs and carcases of the dying and the dead.

While the Namur, Desfiance, Windsor, Centurion, Yarmouth, Pembroke, and Devonshire, were engaging some of the French ships, and pursuing others, Vice-admiral Anson, in the Prince George, came up to the Invincible, but before he fired upon her, all the French ships in the rear struck their colours between six and seven, as did all those that were in the line before night.

At

At seven o'clock, the vice-admiral brought to, having detached the Monmouth, Yarmouth, and Nottingham, in pursuit of the convoy, who then bore west by south-west, at about four or five leagues distance, being followed by the Falcon sloop all the time of the engagement, whose captain was ordered to make signals for a guidance to the other ships, by which means the Vigilante, and Modeste, of twenty-two guns each, with the Dartmouth, formerly an English privateer of eighteen guns, and fifty men, were taken; being the only East-India ships that fled from the engagement. Six other ships of the convoy fell into the hands of the English, but the rest escaped by favour of the night.

The French behaved with great gallantry in this action, but the impetuous valour of the English was irresistible; their sailors far surpassed those of the French, both in discipline and firing, and, as only eight English ships were engaged, the superiority on our side was not very great. The British ships suffered severely in their masts and rigging; about five hundred and twenty were either killed or wounded. On the side of the French about seven hundred were either killed or wounded. But the greatest loss sustained by the conquerors was from the death of Captain Grenville, of the Defiance; who, though no more than twenty-eight years of age at the time of his death, was an excellent officer, regretted by the whole fleet, lamented by his admiral, and deplored by his king and country. He was nephew to Lord Cobham, youngest brother to Lord Temple, brother-in-law to Mr. Pitt, and maternal cousin to Lord Littleton. His uncle caused a pedestal to be erected to his memory, in the temple of British worthies, at Stow-gardens; and his cousin lamented his loss, and sung his praises in tender elegiac strains. Captain Boscawen, of the Namur, was wounded in the shoulder by a musket-ball, but no other officer of the

British fleet was hurt. M. de la Jonquiere, the French chef d'escadre, was shot under the blade-bones of both his shoulders; one of his captains was killed, and another lost a leg. The French fleet would have separated in a day or two if this disaster had not befallen it. The *Invincible* and *Jafon* were to have proceeded to the East-Indies, with the trade and store-ships, and the rest to have bent their course for Canada. Our victorious fleet brought their noble acquisition into Portsmouth, with all the exultation attendant on glorious and decisive victory. A considerable quantity of silver was on-board this captured fleet, which was brought through the city of London in twenty waggons, guarded by marines, and lodged in the bank. The share of prize-money to each private seaman on-board the British fleet, amounted to seven pounds five shillings and six-pence; every petty officer received thirty-eight pounds four shillings; the next rank of officers one hundred and thirty-three pounds, and each lieutenant two hundred and ninety-three pounds. "Of the silver taken at this time," says Voltaire, "some money was coined, the legend of which was the word FINISTERRE, which served both as a flattering remembrance of the victory, and an encouragement to the the people: it was a glorious imitation of the ancient custom among the Romans, of engraving in this manner on their current money, the most remarkable events of their empire."

On their return to London, Vice-admiral Anson was created a peer, by the title of Lord Anson, Baron of Soberton, in the county of Southampton; and Rear-admiral Warren was invested with the order of the Bath. These honours were soon followed by a general promotion of naval officers.

The British cabinet now discovered a degree of vigilance to which they had been strangers during the war. Before this blow had been struck, the lords of the admiralty had appointed another squadron to intercept

tercept a large fleet of French merchantmen, which were homeward-bound from St. Domingo; the command of which expedition was given to Captain Fox, in the Kent. He had with him, Kent, seventy-guns; Hampton-court, seventy; Eagle, sixty; Lion, sixty; Chester, fifty; Hector, forty-four; Pluto and Dolphin, fire-ships. Commodore Fox sailed on the 10th of April, and took his station in the Bay of Biscay; on the 20th of June at four in the morning, the French appeared in sight, being then in the latitude of 47. 18. N. Cape Ortegal in Galicia, the most northern promontory in Spain, bearing south-east. This fleet consisted of one hundred and seventy sail, and was convoyed by Monsieur du Bois de la Motte. He had with him the Magnanime, seventy-four guns; the Alcide, sixty-four; the Arc en Ciel, fifty-eight; and the Zephyr, thirty-six. The French were to windward, but the British squadron chased them the whole day, and at night the French men of war were distant from the Kent about two leagues; but the English ships having been two months out of harbour, were foul and sickly, so that they could gain but little upon the French men of war, although they had all their sails set, and the French were under their top-sails and fore-sails. On the evening of the 21st they began to gain upon the enemy, when the French spread their sails, and went away without making any signal either by light or gun, and in the night got clear off. The merchant ships were now left defenceless; the English ships therefore pursued them and took several. On the 23d a great many more fell into their hands. Some of the ships that escaped from these pursuers fell into the hands of Sir Peter Warren, who had sailed from Plymouth the 6th of June, with a squadron to intercept such ships as might escape from Commodore Fox.

After three years of languid war, the destruction of the French navy and commerce were now to be effected by a rapid succession of victories. A very

large fleet of French merchant-ships, consisting of two hundred and fifty-two sail, were assembling at the isle of Aix, to proceed thence to the West-Indies; they were escorted by a strong squadron of men of war.

No sooner was intelligence of this fleet received by the British ministry, than the lords of the admiralty caused a fleet to be got ready to intercept them also; the command of which was given to Rear-admiral Hawke, who sailed from Plymouth on the 9th of August, and continued to cruise for some time on the coast of Bretagne. The whole French fleet set sail from Aix on the 6th of October, with an east-north-east wind, which ceasing, they were obliged to anchor in the road of Rochelle, from whence they sailed the next morning, and made for the latitude of Belle-Ile on the southern coast of Bretagne, where they arrived on the 10th, then stretching sail from the land.

On the 14th at seven in the morning, the English fleet being in latitude 47. 49. N. and longitude from Cape Finisterre 1. 2. W. the Edinburgh made a signal for seeing seven sail in the south-east quarter, upon which Hawke immediately made the signal for all the fleet to chase; about eight he saw a great number of ships, so crowded that he could not count them; but at ten he made a signal for forming a line of battle ahead. The French commodore, when he first saw the British squadron in the horizon, making swiftly after him, took them for some of his own fleet; but, when he discovered what they were, he threw out a signal for the merchantmen to make the best of their way, and at the same time made a signal for the men of war to form the line of battle; the *Intrepide*, *Trident*, and *Terrible*, composed the van; the *Tonant* and *Monarque* the centre; and the *Severn*, *Fougueux*, and *Neptune*, the rear. It was of the last importance that this line should form immediately; but the preservation of the merchant-ships being the principal object, it was necessary to leave intervals; so that before

fore they could all pass through, a considerable time was elapsed, during which Hawke had made his dispositions; and, discovering that the escape of the convoy was their chief intention, made the signal for chasing before the line was formed, and in half an hour, observing that the headmost ships were within a proper distance, he made a signal to engage, which was immediately obeyed. The *Lion* and *Princess Louisa* began the engagement about a quarter before twelve, passing through a terrible fire, from the rear to the van of the French, who had the weather-gage; they were followed by the rest of the ships as they came up; the *Lion*, *Louisa*, *Tilbury*, *Eagle*, *Windsor*, and *Yarmouth*, behaved with the greatest intrepidity, and the French received them with the utmost bravery. Hawke received several fires at a distance before he could get near enough to engage the *Severn*, which he soon silenced, and left to be taken up by the frigates astern. Then perceiving the *Eagle* and *Edinburgh* to be somewhat disabled by the *Tonant*, kept as near the wind as possible in order to assist them; but the attempt was frustrated by the *Eagle's* falling twice on-board the *Devonshire*, having had her wheel shot to pieces, all the men at it killed, and all her braces and bowlings gone, which forced the rear-admiral to leeward, and prevented his attacking either the *Monarque* or *Tonant*, within any distance to do execution. He however attempted both, especially the latter; but while he was engaged with her, the breechings of all the lower-deck guns of the *Devonshire* broke, and the guns flew fore and aft, which obliged her to shoot ahead, because her upper and quarter-deck guns could not reach the *Tonant*. Captain Harland in the *Tilbury*, observing that the *Tonant* fired single guns at the *Devonshire*, with a view to dismast her, tacked and stood in between her and the *Devonshire*, and gave her a very smart fire. By this time the new breechings were all seized on-board

board the Devonshire, and she was got almost along side of the Trident of sixty-four guns, which the rear-admiral immediately engaged, and soon silenced by a very brisk fire; but observing the Kent, which appeared to have received little or no damage, at some distance astern of the Tonant, he flung out the signal for Captain Fox to make sail ahead and engage her. The admiral, also, seeing some of his squadron at that time not so closely engaged as he could wish, made the signal for coming to a close engagement; and soon after the Devonshire got within musket-shot of the Terrible, who struck her colours at seven o'clock at night, as the Trident had done before. In the mean time Captain Saunders in the Yarmouth, lay two hours closely engaged with the Neptune, which had one hundred men killed, and one hundred and forty wounded, and had lost almost all her masts before she struck, which she did about four o'clock. The Monarque, Fougueux, and Severn, surrendered about the same time.

During the heat of the action, the Intrepide tacked about towards the Tonant, and passed through the midst of the British ships, firing on both sides. As soon as she came up with the Tonant, she got under her stern, and those two ships maintained a fight for half an hour with the British ships that assailed them. Captain Saunders in the Yarmouth, being enraged to see the French admiral and the Intrepide getting away, proposed to Captain Saumarez in the Nottingham, and Captain Rodney in the Eagle, who were within hail, to pursue them. The measure was so perfectly consonant with the inclinations of these two gallant officers, that the three British ships bore down immediately on the flying Frenchmen, and engaged them almost an hour; but Captain Saumarez being unfortunately killed by a shot from the Tonant, the Nottingham hauled her wind, which gave the French an opportunity of escaping under favour of the night; when

when they proceeded to a small port one hundred leagues west of Ushant, where they repaired their shattered ships, and soon after returned to Brest, having lost upwards of two hundred men on-board the *Tonant* and *Intrepide*.

As soon as the *Terrible*, *Monarque*, *Neptune*, *Trident*, *Fougueux*, and *Severn*, had struck, and it beginning to grow very dark, Admiral Hawke thought proper to bring too for that night. And as it was not possible to dispatch any ships after the convoy, he manned and victualled the *Weazle* sloop, and sent her express to Commodore Legge, who commanded the squadron stationed about the leeward islands, with an account of what had happened, by which means ten of the merchantmen were taken.

The French had about eight hundred men killed and wounded, and three thousand three hundred taken prisoners. Among their slain was M. Formentierre, who commanded the *Neptune*; and the French commodore received a violent contusion on the right shoulder, and another on one of his legs. We had one hundred and fifty-four men killed, and five hundred and fifty-eight wounded; the only officer of distinction we lost was the brave Captain Saumarez, who was first lieutenant to Commodore Anson during the latter part of his voyage round the world; and being trained by that able commander, he became, what all the other officers who served in that expedition have proved, a very skilful and a very brave seaman. A plain monument is erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey.

Hawke arrived with his six prizes at Portsmouth on the 31st of October, and was soon after created a knight of the Bath for his gallant behaviour.

Our blunt British tar in the advice which he sent to the admiralty of this action, says, "As the enemy's ships were large, they took a great deal of *drubbing*, and lost all their masts, excepting two, who had their foremasts

foremasts left." George II. who was not so perfect a master of the English language as his present majesty, was pleased to ask Lord Chesterfield the meaning of the word *drubbing*. "The signification of the word," says Lord C. "is nothing more than—but here comes the Duke of Bedford, who is better able to explain it to your majesty than I am." His grace had some time before been severely horse-whipped on the horse-course at Litchfield, by a country attorney of the name of Humphreys.

Admiral Hawke in his dispatches expressed himself very pointedly with respect to the backwardness of Captain Fox, in the Kent, to engage, and desired that a court-martial might be appointed to enquire into his conduct. One was thereupon held at Portsmouth, on the 25th of November following. Captain Rodney, of the Eagle, deposed, that he was engaged between two fires; when Captain Fox could easily have come to his assistance, but did not. On the other hand, the captain called a number of witnesses who were unanimous in attesting, that he discovered every appearance of personal courage during the action. So contradictory was the evidence on both sides, that, while one swore that the Kent did not engage but at a great distance, the other went to prove that she engaged the Fougueux three quarters of an hour, within musket and pistol-shot, till she struck; that the Kent then shot ahead, and engaged the Tonant for half an hour, and carried away her main-top-mast; when the Kent forged ahead, her braces, preventers, and hoppers, being all shot away. The trial continued till the 21st of December, when the court gave their opinion that part of the charge was proved: that Captain Fox had been guilty of backing his mizen-top-sail, and leaving the Tonant, contrary to the 11th and 12th articles of war. They acquitted him at the same time of the charge of cowardice; but because he paid too much regard to the advice of his officers, contrary to his better

better judgment, the sentence was, that he be dismissed from the present command of the Kent: but his majesty soon restored him to his post, and afterwards promoted him to the rank of admiral; while Mr. Matthews, whose courage never incurred suspicion, still laboured under a suspension for that which had been successfully practised in both these late actions, namely, *engaging the enemy without any regard to the line of battle.*

In the Mediterranean, Vice-admiral Medley blocked up the Spanish squadron in Carthagena; assisted the Austrian general on the coast of Villafranca; and intercepted some of the succours sent from France to the assistance of the Genoese. At his death, which happened in the beginning of August, the command of that squadron devolved upon Rear-admiral Byng, who proceeded upon the same plan of operation. In the summer, two British ships of war, having under their convoy a fleet of merchant ships bound to North America, fell in with the Glorioso, a Spanish ship of eighty guns, in the latitude of the Western Isles. She had sailed from the Havannah, with an immense treasure on-board, and must have fallen prize to the English ships, had each captain done his duty. Captain Erskine in the Warwick, of sixty guns, attacked her with great intrepidity, and fought until his ship was entirely disabled; but being unsustained by his consort, he was obliged to haul off, and the Glorioso arrived in safety at Ferrol: there the silver was landed, and she proceeded on her voyage for Cadiz, which however she did not reach. In her way thither, on the 7th of October, she was met by the King George, Prince Frederic, Duke, and Princess Amelia, privateers; the two former of whom engaged her for three hours, but without success. The next morning, two large ships appeared, and proved to be English men of war. The first that came up was the Dartmouth, of fifty guns, Captain James Hamilton, a gallant youth,

who, notwithstanding his inequality of force, engaged her without waiting to deliberate upon it; but in the heat of the action, his ship, accidentally taking fire, was blown up. The Prince Frederic instantly put out her boats, but could only save the lieutenant (Mr. Obrien) and eleven foremast-men. Favourable as this accident may seem to the Glorioso, she did not escape. An English ship of eighty guns, under the command of Captain Buckle, came up, and obliged the Spaniards to surrender, after a short but vigorous engagement.

In the East-Indies, Commodore Griffiths protected Fort St. David's, and the other British settlements, from the designs which the French had formed against them, but his strength was not sufficient to enable him to undertake any enterprize of importance against the enemy; the ministry of England therefore, who were now roused from their long lethargy, resolved to equip a fresh armament; which, in addition to the force already there, should be able to retrieve the disgrace which Great Britain had suffered in that quarter of the world, and to dispossess the French of their valuable settlement of Pondicherry. For this purpose several independent companies were raised, and in the sequel embarked on-board a strong squadron, the command of which was given to Rear-admiral Boscawen, an officer of tried bravery, and very superior knowledge in naval affairs.

In the course of the year 1747, the British cruisers were so alert and successful, that they took 644 prizes from the French and Spaniards, whereas the loss of Great Britain in the same time, did not exceed 550. Some of the most considerable engagements between single ships during this year were the following:—In the month of August, the Viper sloop fell in with the Hector, a South-sea ship of six hundred tons, twenty-eight guns, and fifty-six men; thirty-four leagues N.E. of Ushant; and, after engaging her an hour and a half,

half, she struck. She had about seven thousand pounds in specie on-board, but had put on shore at the Canaries two hundred thousand pounds.—In the same month, the Hon. Captain Barrington in the *Bellona*, fell in with a French outward-bound East-Indiaman, named the *Duke de Chartres*, three leagues from Ushant, when, after an engagement of two hours, she struck. She was laden with beef, flour, brandy, wine, and oil, and had on-board three mortars, and a great number of shells.—The *Tiger*, and *Tigress* privateers, of Bristol, the former of which was commanded by Captain Siex, fell in with the *Conquerant*, a Spanish privateer of twenty guns, and two hundred and twenty men, and two French privateers of twenty-six and twenty guns, which they obliged to strike, and brought them safe into port; for which service the merchants presented Captain Siex with a valuable piece of plate.—The Royal Family privateer of Bristol, took a valuable Spanish prize, called the *Nympha*, which, however, was forced ashore off Beachy-head in a violent storm; but the gold on-board her, with other valuable effects, were saved.

Although the parliament had now continued to sit no more than six years, yet his majesty thought fit to exercise the power with which the constitution had invested him, and to dissolve that house of commons, and call a new one. Accordingly on the 8th of June, a proclamation was issued for dissolving the parliament and choosing another house of commons.

All the belligerent powers were by this time heartily tired of the war which had consumed an immensity of treasure, had been productive of so much mischief, and in the events of which all, in their turns, had found themselves disappointed. Immediately after the battle of Laffeldt, the King of France had, in a personal conversation with Sir John Ligonier, expressed his desire of a pacification; and afterwards his minister at the Hague presented a declaration on the same sub-

ject to the deputies of the states-general. The signal success of the British arms at sea confirmed him in these sentiments, which were likewise reinforced by a variety of other considerations. His finances were almost exhausted, and his supplies from the Spanish West-Indies rendered so precarious by the vigilance of the British cruisers, that he could no longer depend upon their arrival. The trading part of his subjects had sustained such losses, that his kingdom was filled with bankruptcies; and the best part of his navy now contributed to strengthen the fleets of his enemies. The election of a stadtholder had united the whole power of the states-general against him, in taking the most resolute measures for their own safety: his views in Germany were entirely frustrated by the election of the grand duke to the imperial throne, and the re-establishment of peace between the houses of Austria and Brandenburg: the success of his arms in Italy had not at all answered his expectation; and Genoa was become an expensive ally. He had the mortification to see the commerce of Britain flourish in the midst of war, while his own people were utterly impoverished. The parliament of England granted, and the nation paid, such incredible sums as enabled their sovereign not only to maintain invincible navies and formidable armies, but likewise to give subsidies to all the powers of Europe. He knew that a treaty of this kind was actually upon the anvil between his Britannic majesty and the czarina, and he began to be apprehensive of seeing an army of Russians in the Netherlands. His fears from this quarter were not without foundation. In the month of November, the Earl of Hyndford, ambassador from the King of Great Britain at the court of Russia, concluded a treaty of subsidy, by which the czarina engaged to hold in readiness thirty thousand men, and forty gallies, to be employed in the service of the confederates on the first requisition. The states-general acceded to this agreement,

agreement, and even consented to pay one-fourth of the subsidy. His most christian majesty, moved by these considerations, made further advances towards an accommodation both at the Hague and in London; and the contending powers agreed to another congress, which was actually opened in March at Aix-la-Chapelle, where the Earl of Sandwich and Sir Thomas Robinson assisted as plenipotentiaries from the King of Great Britain.

The election for the new parliament had been conducted so as fully to answer the purposes of the Duke of Newcastle, and his brother Mr. Pelham, who had for some time wholly engrossed the administration. Both houses were assembled on the 10th of November, 1747; when Mr. Onslow was unanimously re-elected speaker of the commons. The session was opened as usual, by a speech from the throne, congratulating them on the signal successes of the British navy, and the happy alteration in the government of the united provinces. His majesty gave them to understand, that a congress would speedily be opened at Aix-la-Chapelle, to concert the means for a general pacification; and reminded them that nothing would more conduce to the success of this negotiation than the vigour and unanimity of their proceedings. He received such addresses as the minister was pleased to dictate. Opposition now languished at their feet. The Duke of Bedford was become a courtier, and in a little time appointed secretary of state, in the room of the Earl of Chesterfield, who had lately executed that office which he now resigned; and the Earl of Sandwich was made first lord of the admiralty. This new house of commons, in imitation of the liberality of their predecessors, readily gratified all the requests of the government. They voted forty thousand seamen, forty-nine thousand land-forces, besides eleven thousand five hundred marines; the subsidies for the Queen of Hungary, the Czarina, the King of Sardinia, the Electors

Electors of Mentz and Bavaria, the Hessians, and the Duke of Wolfenbüttele; the sum of 235,749*l.* was granted to the province of New England, to reimburse them for the expense of reducing Cape Breton: 500,000*l.* were given to his majesty for the vigorous prosecution of the war; and about 152,000*l.* to the Scottish claimants, in lieu of their jurisdiction. The supplies for the ensuing year fell very little short of nine millions, of which the greater part was raised on loan by subscription, chargeable on a new subsidy of poundage exacted from all merchandise imported into Great Britain. Immediately after the rebellion was suppressed, the legislature had established some regulations in Scotland, which were thought necessary to prevent such commotions for the future. The highlanders were disarmed, an act passed, for abolishing their peculiarity of garb, which was supposed to keep up party distinctions, to encourage their martial disposition, and preserve the memory of the exploits achieved by their ancestors.

The session was closed on the 13th of May, when the king declared to both houses, that the preliminaries for a general peace were actually signed at Aix-la-Chapelle by the ministers of Great Britain, France, and the United Provinces; and that the basis of this accommodation was a general restitution of the conquests which had been made during the war. Immediately after the prorogation of parliament his majesty set out for his German dominions, after having appointed a regency to rule the realm in his absence.

The articles might have been made much less unfavourable to Great Britain and her allies, had the ministry made a proper use of the treaty with the czarina; and if the confederates had acted with more vigour and expedition in the beginning of the campaign. The Russian auxiliaries might have been transported by sea to Lubec, before the end of the preceding summer, in their own galleys which had been
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lying ready for use since the month of July. Had this expedient been used, the Russian troops would have joined the confederate army before the conclusion of the last campaign. But this easy and expeditious method of conveyance was rejected for a march by land, of incredible length, and difficulty, which could not be begun before the month of January, nor accomplished till Midsummer. The operations of the campaign had been concerted at the Hague in January, by the respective ministers of the allies, who resolved to bring an army of one hundred and ninety thousand men into the Netherlands, in order to compel the French to abandon the barrier which they had conquered. The towns of Holland became the scenes of tumult and insurrection. The populace plundered the farmers of the revenue, abolished the taxes, and insulted the magistrates; so that the states-general, seeing their country on the brink of anarchy and confusion, authorised the Prince of Orange to make such alterations as he should see convenient. They presented him with a diploma, by which he was constituted hereditary stadtholder and captain-general of Dutch Brabant, Flanders, and the upper quarter of Guelderland; and the East-India company appointed him director and governor-general of their commerce and settlements in the Indies. Thus invested with an authority unknown to his ancestors, he exerted himself with equal industry and discretion in new modelling, augmenting, and assembling the troops of the republic. The confederates knew that the Count de Saxe had a design upon Maestricht; the Austrian General Bathiani made repeated remonstrances to the British ministry, entreating them to take speedy measures for the preservation of that fortress. He in the month of January proposed that the Duke of Cumberland should cross the sea, and confer with the Prince of Orange on the subject: he undertook, at the peril of his head, to cover Maestricht with seventy thousand

thousand men from all attacks of the enemy: but his representations seemed to have made very little impression on those to whom they were addressed. The Duke of Cumberland did not depart from England till towards the latter end of February: part of March was elapsed, before the transports sailed from the Nore with the additional troops and artillery; and the last drafts from the foot guards were not embarked till the middle of August.

The different bodies of the confederate forces joined each other, and encamped in the neighbourhood of Ruremond, to the number of one hundred and ten thousand men; and the French army invested Maestricht, without opposition, on the 3d of April. The garrison consisted of Imperial and Dutch troops, under the conduct of the governor, Baron d'Aylva, who defended the place with extraordinary skill and resolution. He annoyed the besiegers in repeated sallies; but they were determined to surmount all opposition, and prosecuted their approaches with incredible ardour. They assaulted the covered way, and there effected a lodgment, after an obstinate dispute, in which they lost two thousand of their best troops: but, next day they were entirely dislodged by the gallantry of the garrison. These hostilities were suddenly suspended, in consequence of the preliminaries signed at Aix la-Chapelle. The plenipotentiaries agreed, that, for the glory of his christian majesty's arms, the town of Maestricht should be surrendered to his general, on condition that it should be restored with all the magazines and artillery. He accordingly took possession of it on the 3d of May, when the garrison marched out with all the honours of war; and a cessation of arms immediately ensued. By this time the Russian auxiliaries, to the number of thirty-seven thousand, commanded by Prince Repnin, had arrived in Moravia, where they were reviewed by their imperial majesties; then they proceeded to the confines
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of Franconia, where they were ordered to halt, after they had marched seven hundred miles since the beginning of the year. The French king declared, that should they advance farther, he would demolish the fortifications of Maestricht and Bergen-op-Zoom. This dispute was referred to the plenipotentiaries, who, in the beginning of August, concluded a convention, importing, that the Russian troops should return to their own country; and that the French King should disband an equal number of his forces. The season being far advanced, the Russians were provided with winter quarters in Bohemia and Moravia, where they continued till the spring, when they marched back to Livonia. In the mean time thirty-seven thousand French troops were withdrawn from Flanders into Picardy, and the two armies remained quiet till the conclusion of the definitive treaty. The suspension of arms was proclaimed in London, and in all the capitals of the contracting powers: orders were sent to respective admirals in different parts of the world, to refrain from hostilities; and a communication of trade and intelligence was again opened between the nations which had been at variance. No material transaction distinguished the campaign in Italy. The French and Spanish troops who had joined the Genoese in the territories of the republic, amounted to thirty thousand men, under the direction of the Duke de Richelieu, who was sent from France to assume that command, on the death of the Duke de Boufflers; while Marshal Belleisle, at the head of fifty thousand men, covered the western Riviera, which was threatened with an invasion by forty thousand Austrians and Piedmontese, under General Leutrum. At the same time General Brown, with a more numerous army, prepared to re-enter the eastern Riviera, and re-commence the siege of Genoa. But these intended operations were prevented by an armistice, which took place as soon as the belligerent powers had acceded to the preliminaries.

At this time, Rear-admiral Knowles commanded in the Jamaica station. He sailed from Port-Royal harbour on the 13th of February, having on-board a detachment of two hundred and forty men, from the regiment commanded by Governor Trelawney, who accompanied the admiral in the expedition, with a design to attack the Spaniards at St. Jago de Cuba; but the winds continuing to blow from the north, the ships could not by any means approach that island; it was therefore agreed to make an attempt upon the French at Port Louis, on the south side of Hispaniola, (or, as it is more generally called, St. Domingo,) where the admiral arrived on the 8th of March; and in the afternoon of the same day, his ships drew up within pistol-shot of the walls. This place was defended by a strong fort, mounting seventy-eight guns, and had six hundred men, commanded by M. de Chaleaunoye. The garrison played furiously upon the ships all the time they were advancing, which was not returned until they had got into their stations, and were moored in a close line ahead, when they returned the salute, and repaid their favours with interest. Captain Rentone, in the *Strafford*, was killed by a shot which took off his thigh, before the ship came to an anchor. The engagement now became warm on both sides, in the midst of which the besieged sent out a fireship with a design to drop on-board the *Cornwall* or *Elizabeth*; but, their intentions being observed, boats were manned, which towed her off, notwithstanding the French musketry played upon them very sharply. They likewise took two vessels, which were prepared for fireships. For three hours this furious cannonading between the ships and the fortress continued, when at length the French were unable any longer to stand to their guns, which were no sooner silenced than the admiral summoned the governor to surrender. Terms of capitulation were settled that evening, by which the fort was surrendered to his Britannic majesty, and the whole garrison engaged

gaged not to serve against Great Britain or her allies for the term of one year; both soldiers and officers were permitted to march out with their arms, colours flying, and drums beating; but without cannon, mortars, or any ammunition whatever. All the officers were allowed to carry such baggage as they pledged their honour for being their own, but subject to inspection if that should be thought necessary. All negroes and mulattoes that served the officers were secured to them, but all others that were in the fort were to be delivered up as the property of the captors, together with the fort, and all the cannon, munitions, and appurtenance. These stipulations being agreed to, the British troops marched into the town that evening. The garrison had one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded; the loss on-board the ships was only seventy killed and wounded. Amongst the dead was the brave Captain Rentone, as already mentioned, and Captain Cust; the latter a volunteer in the expedition. The rear-admiral found three ships, a snow, and three privateer sloops, in the harbour, all of which he took possession of; but, as the fort was deemed of little use to the present possessors, the admiral gave orders it should be blown up.

The town of St. Louis was built in the beginning of the last century, and lies at the bottom of a bay which forms an indifferent harbour; for the anchorage is very unsafe during the equinoxial gales. The French possessions on the island of St. Domingo extend one hundred and eighty leagues along the sea-coast, looking towards the north, the west, and the south. The southern parts extend from Cape Tiburon to the point of Cape Beata, which takes in about fifty leagues of the coast, which is more or less confined by a ridge of mountains, which run length-ways from east to west along the whole island.

Admiral Knowles, after having settled the conditions for the security of the town, proceeded to put in execution his first design against St. Jago de Cuba; and

it should seem that new sentiments had been adopted concerning the manner of attacking that settlement since Admiral Vernon commanded in the West Indies: then it was thought impregnable from the sea, (see page 220;) but now it was resolved to attack it with the fleet. On the 5th of April Admiral Knowles arrived with his fleet off the harbour. Captain Dent, of the Plymouth, being the senior captain, laid claim to the post of honour, and therefore insisted on going in first, he was seconded by the Cornwall. As soon as he began to advance, he discovered a boom laid across the mouth of the harbour, on the other side of which two large ships and two small ones were drawn up; these were filled with combustibles, and ready to be fired and sent in among the British fleet, if they should break the boom and enter the harbour. In this situation our ships fired some broadsides at the castle, and received some shot from thence, which killed one or two men on-board the Cornwall. Captain Dent seeing the desperate nature of the service in which he was engaged, called his officers together to have their opinions concerning the measures proper to be taken. It appeared to them that the ships would be exposed to the most imminent danger if they attempted to break the chain: in consequence of which they relinquished the attempt, and the rear-admiral returned to Jamaica with the fleet.

The admiral was highly displeased at the conduct of Captain Dent, (although nothing but the most unwarrantable rashness could have urged him on to sacrifice the lives of his men, and to risk the loss of his ship by pushing forward;) he therefore exhibited a charge against him to the board of admiralty when he returned to England; in consequence of which, Dent was tried by a court-martial for misconduct, but was honourably acquitted.

The vigilance of Admiral Knowles, whilst on the Jamaica station, secured the trade of that island from
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all annoyance; at the same time Commodore Pocock, who succeeded Legge on the leeward station, not only protected the trade to the Caribbee Islands, but blocked up the French in Martinico, and reduced them to great extremity. Whilst Admiral Knowles was thus discharging his duty as an active officer, his grand object was to intercept the Spanish plate fleet from la Vera Cruz, in its way to the Havannah, for which purpose he cruised with six ships of war off the Tortugas's bank. In the mean time, the Lenox, Captain Holmes, sailed from Jamaica on the 25th of August, with a convoy of merchantmen for England. The rapidity of the current prevented their passing through the windward passage, so that they were obliged to bear away for the gulph of Florida. Whilst they were pursuing this course, on the 29th of September in the morning, they descried seven sail of large ships bearing down upon them, which proved to be the Spanish fleet commanded by Admiral Reggio. Captain Holmes made a signal for his convoy to save themselves in the best manner they could, whilst he stood towards the enemy; but when it grew dark, he spread all his sail to reach Admiral Knowles, being acquainted with the station he had chosen. The next morning he joined him, and gave advice of what had happened, whereupon the rear-admiral made sail to meet the Spaniards, and came up with them on the 1st of October in the morning, between the Tortugas and the Havannah. At sight of each other both squadrons prepared for an engagement.

The Spaniards were much superior to the English both in men and guns. The Spanish admiral immediately formed his line of battle, the *Invincible* leading the van, followed by the *Conquistadore*; the *Africa* and *Dragon* in the centre; the *New Spain* and *Royal Family* in the rear; and the *Galga* frigate without the line. Rear-admiral Knowles had formed his disposition, by placing the *Tilbury* in the van, fol-
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lowed by the Strafford; the Cornwall and Lenox in the centre; the Warwick and Canterbury in the rear; and the Oxford out of the line. Admiral Reggio waited for Admiral Knowles, who had the advantage of the wind, but did not make use of it till about two o'clock, when the Spaniards began to fire, though at too great a distance to do execution; but soon after the English admiral made the signal for the Tilbury to bear down upon the enemy; the Strafford followed her; the Cornwall edged down close upon the Spanish vice-admiral; the Lenox bore down on the Dragon, and about half an hour after two the action began, with a brisk fire on both sides, though the Spaniards had greatly the advantage, the Warwick and Canterbury being so far astern that they could not fire a shot for above two hours. Rear admiral Knowles, being got within pistol-shot of Admiral Reggio, discharged all his artillery and musquetry at the Africa, together with eight cohorns; but was so warmly received by the Spaniards, that after laying half an hour along side of the Africa, he was obliged to fall astern of his own squadron, having lost his main-top-mast, and the yard shot in two, which rendered him unable to come again into the line. So favourable a beginning flattered the Spaniards with a complete victory; but the Conquistadore, having her main-top-mast-ties shot away, was obliged to sail astern of the Spanish squadron, where Admiral Knowles, who had now refitted his ship, bore down and attacked her. The action was long and bloody, in which St. Justo, the Spanish captain, was killed; but the second captain, who made a noble defence, did not surrender the ship, till the granada shells had set her on fire three several times, when she struck. At the time that the Cornwall retired out of the line, the Lenox shot up into her place, abreast of the Spanish admiral, where Captain Holmes was hotly engaged; having no less than three of the Spanish ships firing upon him above an hour; when
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the Warwick and Canterbury came up very seasonably to his assistance. The action was now closer and warmer than ever, and continued so till eight in the evening, when the Spaniards edged away towards the Havannah, which was but a small distance from them: the British ships kept close to them, and did great execution; but the Spaniards at last got safe into port, except the *Conquestadore*, which was taken, and the *Africa*, which, having lost her masts, was forced ashore by the *Lenox*, where she was afterwards burnt.

The Spaniards had eighty-six men killed, and one hundred and ninety-seven wounded in the battle; among the former were Don Thomas de St. Jesto, captain of the *Conquestadore*; Don Vincent Quintana, second captain of the *Africa*; with Don Pedro Garrecocha, the captain of the *Galga*: and among the latter was Admiral Reggio, with fourteen other officers. The English had fifty-nine men killed, and one hundred and twenty wounded, but no officer among them.

The British admiral, after the destruction of the *Africa*, appeared off the Havannah, with the *Conquestadore*, which now made one ship in his fleet, braving his enemy in their harbour. Whilst he continued here, an advice-boat from Old Spain fell into his hands. The information which they received from this ship spread a general dejection through the fleet, as it brought the unwelcome news that the preliminary articles for a general peace were signed, and that hostilities were to cease. The prospect of possessing the Spanish galleons, now that Admiral Reggio and his fleet were defeated, was so very promising, that every individual had in his own mind reduced it to a certainty; and it was supposed to have on-board forty millions of dollars. Their chagrin was further heightened by the intervention of night having prevented them from doing further execution on the Spanish men of war, during the engagement, which most proba-

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bly would have been either taken or destroyed, by two hours further continuance of day-light.

From these causes arose those ill humours and bickerings that afterwards broke out among the captains, and between them and their admiral. Indeed, when the conduct of the rear-admiral afterwards came to be enquired into by a court-martial, his judges gave it as their opinion, that while Admiral Knowles was standing for the enemy, he might by a different disposition of his squadron, have begun the attack with six ships as early in the day as four of them were engaged. He was likewise censured for continuing his flag on-board the Cornwall after she was disabled, when he should have immediately shifted it to some other ship, in order to have conducted and directed during the action the operation of the squadron entrusted to his care and conduct; but the fullest proof was given of his personal courage. This action closing the naval transactions of the war, we shall now conduct our readers to the other section of the globe.

When Commodore Griffin arrived in the East-Indies he superseded his inactive predecessor, and found himself at the head of a formidable squadron, consisting of the York, Princess Mary, Exeter, and Medway, of sixty guns; the Harwich, Preston, and Winchester of fifty; the Eltham, Pearl, and Medway's Prize, of forty; and the Lively, of twenty guns. With this force he blocked up Pondicherry during the whole of the month of August, 1746, and by his dispositions prevented their receiving any supplies for a considerable time afterwards. He also burnt the Neptune man of war in Madras road; to compensate for which the French took the Princess Amelia, one of the ships belonging to the English East-India company, who not knowing the capture of Madras, put in there, the French having constantly kept the English colours flying, in order to draw in ships of that nation.

tion. This stratagem had well nigh deceived many more, who with great difficulty effected their escape.

The whole of the year 1747 was passed without any material occurrences in the east. The English commodore made no attempt either to reduce Pondicherry, or to recover Madras. The French had been very assiduous in repairing the fortifications of the former of these places, where they then mounted one hundred and eighty cannon; they had also erected six additional forts to flank the exterior works: the magazines and arsenals were well provided; and the garrison, with the military Indians, formed a body of four thousand five hundred men. Madras was also greatly strengthened, so as to be capable of withstanding any force which the English had in those parts to bring against it; so that every thing remained quiet, expecting the arrival of Admiral Boscawen, when the tempest of war was again to burst forth. At length, on the 29th of July, 1748, this brave officer arrived at Fort St. David.

Admiral Boscawen in his passage had made an attempt to reduce the island of Mauritius, or Isle de France. This settlement lies in the Indian ocean, between the 19th and 20th degrees of latitude, and about one hundred leagues to the east of Madagascar. It was first discovered by the Portuguese; after them the Dutch took possession of it, but abandoned it after they became possessed of the Cape of Good Hope; they gave it the name of Mauritius, in honour of Prince Maurice their stadtholder. It then remained uninhabited until the French landed there in 1720. As the commerce from the port of l'Orient to the East-Indies became considerable, it was found necessary to establish a refreshing place for the ships during their long passage; this occasioned a colony to be sent to the Mauritius; and that Bourdonnois, whom we have seen reduce Madras, was the man chosen, in 1735, to establish the settlement.

On the 23d of July, Admiral Boscawen appeared before this island, his instructions from the board of admiralty being to attempt the reduction of it in his way to the Coromandel coast. He found the French every where prepared to receive him at the entrance of the harbour, which is situated on the eastern side of the island, the situation of which is naturally well suited to repel an enemy. The admiral finding that every avenue which was favourable for landing, was guarded by a battery, ordered out the masters of the six line of battle ships which he commanded, to reconnoitre the western side of the island. They reported that a reef of rocks ran all along about twenty yards from the shore, which rendered it impossible for boats to approach it. These were fatal obstacles to a descent, especially as the wind constantly blew out of the harbour, across the mouth of which a large ship of two tier of guns lay with her broadside pointed. A council of war, composed of principal sea and land officers, was then called, in which it was resolved to send three ten-oared boats, and to endeavour to surprise and get a prisoner from the shore, who could inform them of the strength of the enemy. The attempt was accordingly made, but it proved ineffectual. The next morning the council again met. When it appeared to them, that as the reduction of the island of Mauritius was not the chief design of the expedition, and as it appeared to be so well defended, an attack must be made with considerable loss; they were therefore of opinion that no attempt should be made on the place, but that the squadron should proceed to the coast of Coromandel, so as to begin the operations there before the monsoons shifted.

Admiral Boscawen lost no time in undertaking the siege of Pondicherry. A camp was formed about a mile from fort St. David, where the troops were reinforced by the marines serving in the squadron of Rear-

Rear-admiral Griffin, by which the army consisted of three thousand six hundred and ninety soldiers, near four hundred to serve the artillery, and two thousand Indians. These the admiral proposed to march by land to Pondicherry, while the command of the ships was intrusted to Captain Lisle, of the *Vigilant*, who was directed to anchor with his whole squadroh two miles to the south of the place. Captain Pawlet, of the *Exeter*, had been sent before to anchor off the town, with the *Chichester*, *Pembroke*, and *Swallow* sloop. Assisted by these ships, he was directed to take the soundings wherever his boats could come, to determine how near the ships might approach the town. These measures being taken, all communication by sea with Pondicherry was effectually cut off. All this time the French squadron was cruising in the straits of Malacca.

On the 8th of August, the army began to march, and approached the town without being much annoyed by the enemy. The garrison of Pondicherry consisted of two thousand European troops, and three thousand Indians. Dupleix, who was governor of the place, had taken every precaution to strengthen it both towards the sea, and where it could be approached by land. As the place had become considerable since the Dutch made an easy conquest of it fifty years before, so due attention had been paid to render it a place of defence. As soon as Boscawen approached the town, he detached his grenadiers and piquets with a body of Indians to attack the fort of *Aria Coupan*, which lies about three miles from Pondicherry, on the side of a river from whence it is named. In this attempt they lost Major Goodyer, the commanding officer of the artillery, whose knowledge and experience were essentially necessary to conduct their approaches. On the 13th of August, the whole army marched to join the detachment; and in the afternoon eleven hundred seamen, whom the

admiral had caused to be disciplined on-board, and exercised in platoons, under the command of Captain Lloyd, were landed; these mounted guard, and did all other duties with the regular troops. Four twelve and four eighteen-pounders being landed, on the 16th at night, a battery of four guns was opened against the fort, but through the unskilfulness of the engineers it did no execution. On the 18th another battery, erected by the artillery officers, began to play with great success. The French made a desperate sally, with a view to destroy this battery; and having with them sixty European horse, they at first threw the British advanced guard into confusion, but these soon rallied, and forced the French to retreat with considerable loss, having made the commanding officer of the horse a prisoner. Soon after this repulse, one of the French batteries blew up, and destroyed one hundred and twenty of their men. The besiegers now pushed on their attack with redoubled spirit, until at length the fort blew up also, immediately upon which the troops rushed in.

The admiral was now possessed of an important post, which he lost no time in repairing. On the 28th he began to land trenching-tools, and other necessaries, to break ground before the place, which was begun on the 20th at night. On the 1st of September, the French made a sally upon the besiegers' intrenchments, with five hundred Europeans and eight hundred Indians, but were repulsed by the advanced guard, which consisted only of one hundred men, with considerable loss. In this action M. Paradis, their chief engineer, was mortally wounded. These successes encouraged the hopes of the besiegers; but the slow progress which the engineers made in completing the batteries, fatally retarded the operations. On the 25th of September the batteries began to play on the town, but the French had raised three fascine batteries, which played on the trenches of the be-
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siegers with considerable effect: they were indeed indefatigable in using every possible means for the defence of the place: by opening sluices they had formed an inundation in the front of the British lines, which effectually obstructed their further approaches.

Whilst the siege was thus carried on by land, a bomb-ketch was brought in, which played upon the citadel night and day. The French were not backward in returning these salutes; and the engineers presently got the length of the vessel so exactly, that she was obliged to discontinue her fire in the day time, and change her station. The obstinate defence made by the besieged, determined the admiral to bring the whole fleet into action; accordingly Captain Leslie was ordered to extend the men of war before the town, in line of battle, and pour their broadsides into the place. At first the French returned their fire very briskly, but soon discontinued it, while they plied the batteries warmly on the land side. Captain Adams, of the *Harwich*, was killed in this attack, having his thigh shot away by a cannon ball.

As the fire from the ships was found to be ineffectual, and the body of water with which the town was environed, rendered it impossible to storm the place; after every method had been tried to reduce it, without effect, the admiral called a council of war. It appeared that the army was daily weakened by sickness, brought on by the excessive-fatigue that the troops endured; the monsoons and rainy season were approaching, and daily expected, when the siege must necessarily be raised, and that with the loss of the artillery and stores. It was farther to be apprehended, that the rivers would thereby be rendered impassable, and the retreat of the army to Fort St. David be cut off; besides which, the fleet would be exposed to the most imminent danger of perishing on the coast. For these reasons it was unanimously resolved to embark the stores and cannon, and raise the siege. On the

6th of October the army struck their tents and began to march back to Fort St. David, the seamen and the artillery having been previously re-embarked on-board the fleet. Such was the unsuccessful issue of this expedition against Pondicherry, in which upwards of one thousand men were lost.

The most considerable captures made by the English during the year 1748, were as follow: Seventeen French ships richly laden from the Levant, taken by Admiral Byng's Squadron. The *Magnanime*, a French man of war, of seventy four guns, and six hundred and eighty-six men, commanded by the Marquis d'Albert, fell in with the *Nottingham*, Captain Harland, and the *Portland*, Captain Stevens, to whom after six hours engagement she struck, having forty-five men killed and one hundred and five wounded; the *Nottingham* had sixteen killed and eighteen wounded, the *Portland* only four wounded. The *Jafon*, a French East-India ship, of seven hundred tons, thirty guns, and one hundred and eighty men, from Port l'Orient to Pondicherry, with store and ammunition, and eight cases of silver, taken by the *Salisbury* man of war, Captain Edgcombe, and brought into Plymouth. The *Grand Biche*, a French privateer, of twenty-two guns, and one hundred and sixty men, which had been very active during the whole war, was taken by the *Bellona* man of war, Captain Campbell. The *Teresa*, a Spanish register ship, from the Havannah, with sixty thousand dollars in specie; besides a very rich cargo, taken near Cadiz, by the *Tiger* privateer of Bristol, Captain Seix. The *St. Victoire*, of three hundred and fifty tons, sixteen guns, six-pounders, and forty-nine men, with wine, brandy, and bale goods, from Bourdeaux to Canada, taken by the *Prince of Orange* privateer of Guernsey, of eight carriage-guns, and fifty men, Captain Visconte, after a fight of seven hours, at the second boarding: the captain received a musket shot through the thigh, and his lieutenant
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four balls in his thigh, at the first broad-side, but both kept the deck and fought to the end; the privateer had two men killed and five wounded. A South-Sea ship valued at 60,000*l.* taken by two Rhode Island privateers; another Spanish-prize, valued at 30,000*l.* was taken by the Port Mahon man of war, and carried into Boston.

The Spaniards, during the war, lost one thousand two hundred and forty-nine ships, and the French two thousand one hundred and eighty-five; amounting in the whole to three thousand four hundred and thirty-four. The English lost one thousand three hundred and sixty ships, taken by the Spaniards, and one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, taken by the French; amounting together to three thousand two hundred and thirty-eight, being one hundred and ninety-six less in number than their captures during the whole course of the war. Several of the Spanish prizes were immensely rich; many of the French were of considerable value; and, although the English lost some ships of great value, yet it has been computed that Great Britain gained on the balance near two millions during the war. So that, although the government was impoverished thereby, individuals were enriched.

The plenipotentiaries still continued at Aix-la-Chapelle, discussing the articles of the definitive treaty, which was at length concluded and signed Oct. 7, 1748. It was founded on former treaties, which were now expressly confirmed, from that of Westphalia to the last concluded at London and Vienna. The contracting parties agreed, That all prisoners on each side should be mutually released, without ransom, and all conquests restored: That the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, should be ceded as a settlement to the infant Don Philip, and the heirs male of his body; but in case of his ascending the throne of Spain, or of the two Sicilies, or his dying without

without male-issue, that they should revert to the house of Austria: That the King of Great Britain should, immediately after the ratification of this treaty, send two persons of rank and distinction, to reside in France, as hostages, until restitution should be made of Cape Breton, and all the other conquests which his Britannic majesty should have achieved in the East or West Indies, before or after the preliminaries were signed: That the assiento contract, with the article of the annual ship, should be confirmed for four years, during which the enjoyment of that privilege was suspended since the commencement of the present war: That Dunkirk should remain fortified on the land side, and towards the sea continue on the footing of former treaties. All the contracting powers became guarantees to the King of Prussia for the duchy of Silesia, and the county of Glatz, as he at present possessed them; and they likewise engaged to secure the Empress Queen of Hungary and Bohemia in possession of her hereditary dominions, according to the pragmatic sanction. The other articles regulated the forms and times fixed for this mutual restitution, as well as for the termination of hostilities in different parts of the world. But the right of the English subjects to navigate in the American seas, without being subject to search, was not once mentioned, though this claim was the original source of the differences between Great Britain and Spain: nor were the limits of Acadia ascertained, although it had been agreed by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, that commissioners should be appointed within two years, who should finally determine that matter. No such adjustment had been made, and this point, with all other matters of dispute between the two nations, were again referred to the same vague and imaginary decision. Considering the superficial manner, in which questions of the utmost importance were decided upon, the
peace

peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was rather a suspension of arms than the restoration of stable tranquillity.

Yet this peace, however inglorious it might appear to those few who understood the interests and felt for the honour of their country, was nevertheless not unwelcome to the nation in general. The British ministry will always find it more difficult to satisfy the people at the end of a successful campaign than at the conclusion of an unfortunate war. The English are impatient of miscarriage and disappointment, and too apt to be intoxicated with victory. At this period they were tired of the burthens, and sick of the disgraces, to which they had been exposed in the course of seven tedious campaigns. They had suffered considerable losses and interruption in the article of commerce, which was the source of their national opulence and power: they knew it would necessarily be clogged with additional duties, for the maintenance of a continental war, and the support of foreign subsidies; and they drew very faint presages of future success either from the conduct of their allies, or the capacity of their commanders. To a people influenced by these considerations, the restoration of a free trade, the respite from the anxiety and suspense which the prosecution of a war never fails to engender, and the prospect of a speedy deliverance from discouraging restraint and oppressive impositions, were advantages that sweetened the bitter draught of a dishonourable treaty, and induced the majority of the nation to acquiesce in the peace, not barely without murmuring, but even with some degree of satisfaction and applause.

Immediately after the exchange of ratifications at Aix-la-Chapelle, the armies were broken up: the allies in the Netherlands withdrew their several proportions of troops; the French began to evacuate Flanders; and the English forces were re-embarked for their own country. His Britannic majesty returned from his

German dominions, in November, having landed near Margate, in Kent, after a dangerous passage; and on the 29th of the same month he opened the session of parliament with a speech, acquainting them, that the definitive treaty of peace was at length signed by all the parties concerned: that he had made the most effectual provision for securing the rights and interests of his own subjects; and procured for his allies the best conditions, which, in the present situation of affairs, could be obtained. He said, he had found a general good disposition in all parties to bring the negotiation to a happy conclusion; and observed, that we might promise ourselves a long enjoyment of the blessings of peace. Finally, after having remarked that times of tranquillity were the proper seasons for lessening the national debt, and strengthening the kingdom against future events, he recommended to the commons the improvement of the public revenue, the maintenance of a considerable naval force, the advancement of commerce, and the cultivation of the arts of peace.

The nation had reason to expect an immediate mitigation in the article of annual expence, considering the number of troops and ships of war which had been reduced at the ratification of the treaty; but they were disagreeably undeceived in finding themselves again loaded with very extraordinary impositions, for the payment of a vast debt which government had contracted in the course of the war, notwithstanding the incredible aids granted by parliament. The committee of supply established four points of consideration, in their deliberations concerning the sums necessary to be raised; namely, for fulfilling the engagements which the parliament had entered into with his majesty, and the services undertaken for the success of the war; for discharging debts contracted by government; for making good deficiencies; and for defraying the current expence of the year. It appeared, that

that the nation owed 44,000*l.* to the Elector of Bavaria; above 30,000*l.* to the Duke of Brunfwick; the like fum to the Landgrave of Hefle Caffel; and near 9,000*l.* to the Elector of Mentz. The Queen of Hungary claimed an arrear of 100,000*l.* The city of Glafgow, in North Britain, prefented a petition, praying to be reimbursed the fum of 10,000*l.* extorted from that corporation by the fon of the pretender, during the rebellion; 112,000*l.* were owing to the forces in North America and the Eaft-Indies; befides near half a million due on extraordinary expences incurred by the land forces in America, Flanders, and North Britain, by the office of ordnance, and other fervices of the laft year, to which the parliamentary provifion did not extend. The remaining debt of the ordnance amounted to above 230,000*l.* but the navy bills could not be difcharged for lefs than 4,000,000. An addition of 2,374,333*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* was alfo required for the current fervice of the year. In a word; the whole annual fupply exceeded 8,000,000*l.* fterling. The number of feamen for 1749, was reduced to feventeen thoufand, and that of the land forces to eighteen thoufand eight hundred and fifty-feven.

Every article of expence, however, was warmly difputed by the anti-courtiers; efpecially the demand of the Queen of Hungary, which was deemed unreafonably exorbitant and rapacious, confidering the seas of blood which we had fhed, and the immenfity of treasure we had exhausted, for her benefit: and furely the fubjects of this nation had fome reason to complain of an indulgence of this nature, granted to a power which they had literally fnatched from the brink of ruin—a power whofe quarrel they had efpoufed with a degree of enthufiafm that did much more honour to their gallantry than to their difcretion—a power which kept aloof, with a ftatelinefs of pride peculiar to herfelf and family, and beheld her Britifh auxiliaries

fighting her battles at their own expence: while she squandered away, in the idle pageantry of barbarous magnificence, those ample subsidies which they advanced in order to maintain her armies, and furnish out her proportion of the war.

But the most violent contest arose on certain regulations which the ministry wanted to establish in two bills, relating to the sea and land service. The first, under the title of a bill for amending, explaining, and reducing into one act of parliament, the laws relating to the navy, was calculated solely with a view of subjecting half pay officers to martial law—a design which not only furnished the opposition with a plausible handle for accusing the ministers, as intending to encroach upon the constitution, in order to extend the influence of the crown; but also alarmed the sea-officers to such a degree, that they assembled to a considerable number, with a view to deliberate upon the proper means of defending their privileges and liberties from invasion. The result of their consultations was a petition to the house of commons, subscribed by three admirals and forty-seven captains, not members of parliament, representing, That the bill in agitation contained several clauses, tending to the injury and dishonour of all naval officers, as well as to the detriment of his majesty's service; and that the laws already in force had been always found effectual for securing the service of officers on half-pay upon the most pressing occasions: they, therefore, hoped, that they should not be subjected to new hardships and discouragements; and begged to be heard by their counsel, before the committee of the whole house, touching such parts of the bill as they apprehended would be injurious to themselves and the other officers of his majesty's navy. This petition was presented to the house by Sir John Norris, and the motion for its being read was seconded by Sir Peter Warren, whose character was universally esteemed and beloved
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in the nation. This measure had like to have produced very serious consequences. Many commanders and subalterns had repaired to the admiralty, and threatened, in plain terms, to throw up their commissions in case the bill should pass into a law; and a general ferment was begun among all the subordinate members of the navy. At length the minister thought proper to drop the projected article, subjecting the reformed officers of the navy to the jurisdictions of court martials; and the bill, being also softened in other particulars during its passage through the upper house, at length received the royal assent.

The flame which this act had kindled, was rather increased than abated on the appearance of a new army mutiny-bill, replete with divers innovations, tending to augment the influence of the crown, as well as the authority and power of a military jurisdiction. By this bill a power was vested in any commander in chief, to revise and correct any legal sentence of a court-martial, by which the members of such a court, corresponding with the nature of a civil jury, were rendered absolutely useless, and the commander in a great measure absolute; for he had not only the power of summoning such officers as he might choose to sit on any trial, a prerogative unknown to any civil court of judicature, but he was also at liberty to review and alter the sentence; so that a man was subject to two trials for the same offence, and the commander in chief was judge both of guilt and punishment. By the final clause of this bill, martial law was extended to all officers on half-pay; and the same arguments which had been urged against this article in the navy bill, were now repeated, and reinforced with redoubled fervour. Many reasons were now offered to prove, that the half-pay was allotted for past service; and the opposants of the bill affirmed, that such an article by augmenting the dependants of the crown, might be very dangerous to the constitution.

tion. On the other hand, the partisans of the ministry asserted, that the half-pay was granted as a retaining-fee; and that, originally, all those who enjoy this indulgence were deemed to be in actual service, consequently subject to martial law. All the disputed articles of the bill being sustained on the shoulders of a great majority, it was conveyed to the upper house, where it excited another violent contest. Upon the question whether officers on half-pay had not been subject to martial law, the judges were consulted and divided in their sentiments. The Earl of Bath declared his opinion, that martial law did not extend to reformed officers: and opened all the sluices of his ancient eloquence. But, notwithstanding the spirited opposition of this nobleman, and some attempts to insert additional clauses, the bill, having undergone a few inconsiderable amendments, passed by a considerable majority.

Immediately after the mutiny bill had passed the lower house, another fruitless effort was made by the opposition. The danger of a standing army, on whose virtue the constitution of Great Britain seemed to depend, did not fail to alarm the minds of many, who were attached to the liberties of their country, and gave birth to a scheme, which, if executed, would have enabled the legislature to establish a militia, that must have answered many national purposes, and acted as a constitutional bulwark against the excesses and ambition of a military standing force, under the immediate influence of government. The scheme, which patriotism conceived, was, in all probability, adopted by party. A bill was brought in, limiting the time beyond which no soldier, or non-commissioned officer, should be compelled to continue in the service. Had this limitation taken place, such a rotation of soldiers would have ensued among the common people, as in France, that in a few years every peasant, labourer, and inferior tradesman, in the kingdom,

dom, would have understood the exercise of arms; and perhaps the people in general would have concluded, that a standing army was altogether unnecessary. A project of this nature could not, for obvious reasons, be agreeable to the administration, and therefore the bill was rendered abortive; for, after having been twice read, it was postponed from time to time, till the parliament was prorogued, and never appeared in the sequel. Such were the chief subjects of debate between the ministry and the opposition, composed of the prince's servants, and the remains of the country party, this last being headed by Lord Strange, son of the Earl of Derby, and Sir Francis Dashwood: the former a nobleman of distinguished abilities, keen, penetrating, eloquent and sagacious; the other frank, spirited, and sensible.

As the public generally suffers at the end of a war, by the sudden dismissal of a great number of soldiers and seamen, who, having contracted a habit of idleness, and finding themselves without employment and the means of subsistence, engage in desperate courses, and prey upon the community, it was judged expedient to provide an opening, through which these unquiet spirits might exhale without damage to the commonwealth. The most natural was that of encouraging them to become members of a new colony in North America, which, by being properly regulated, supported, and improved, might be the source of great advantages to its mother country. A patriotic individual had, in the year 1735, presented a very judicious memorial and petition to the privy council, respecting the defenceless state of that country, and the advantages which might be drawn from it. His representations were disregarded; but the ministry at length, began to consider Nova Scotia as the very key to North America, and were now as much disposed to over rate its value, as they had before been to neglect it altogether. Notwithstanding the

the unfriendly nature of the soil here, and the country being overspread with large trees, which can only be removed by immense labour, and when felled are unfit for the purposes of timber, yet many essential advantages were expected from an establishment here; its situation making it convenient for annoying and intercepting an enemy; as it is a barrier for New England, affords a convenient port for the fishery of the neighbouring seas; and among its immense forests, many trees are found very useful for refitting the royal navy. But though this climate is in the temperate zone, the winters are long and severe, and followed by sudden and excessive heats, to which generally succeed very thick fogs, that last a long time. These circumstances make this rather a disagreeable country, though it cannot be reckoned an unwholesome one.

Many disputes had arisen between the subjects of England and the French, concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, which no treaty had as yet properly ascertained. A fort had been raised, and a small garrison maintained, by the King of Great Britain, at a part of this very country called Annapolis Royal, to overawe the French neutrals settled in the neighbourhood: but this did not answer the purpose for which it was intended. Upon every rupture or dispute between the two crowns, these planters, forgetting their neutrality, intrigued with the Indians, communicated intelligence to their own countrymen settled at St. John's and Cape Breton, and did all the ill offices their hatred could suggest against the colonies and subjects of Great Britain.

A scheme was now formed for making a new establishment on the same peninsula, which should further confirm and extend the property and dominion of the crown of Great Britain in that large tract of country, clear the uncultivated grounds, constitute communities, diffuse the benefits of population and agriculture, and

and improve the fishery of that coast, which might be rendered a new source of wealth and commerce to Great Britain. The particulars of the plan, being duly considered, were laid before his majesty, who approved of the design, and referred the execution of it to the board of trade and plantations, over which the Earl of Halifax presided. The commissioners immediately advertised, under the sanction of his majesty's authority, that proper encouragement would be given to such of the officers and private men, lately dismissed from the land and sea service, as were willing to settle with or without families, in the province of Nova Scotia; that the fee-simple, or perpetual property, of fifty acres of land, should be granted to every private soldier or seaman, free from the payment of any quit-rents or taxes for the term of ten years; at the expiration of which no person should pay more than one shilling per annum for fifty acres so granted. That the lands should be parcelled out as soon as possible, after the arrival of the colonists, and a civil government established; in consequence of which they should enjoy all the liberties and privileges of British subjects, with proper security and protection: that the settlers, with their families, should be conveyed to Nova Scotia, and maintained for twelve months after their arrival, at the expence of the government; which would also supply them with arms and ammunition, as far as should be judged necessary for their defence, with proper materials and utensils for clearing and cultivating their lands, erecting habitations, exercising the fishery, and such other purposes as should be judged necessary for their support.

The scheme was so feasible, and the encouragement so inviting, that, in a little time, about four thousand adventurers, with their families, were entered, according to the directions of the board of trade. In the beginning of May, 1749, they set sail

from England, under the command of Colonel Cornwallis, whom the king had appointed their governor, Sir Edward Hawke commanded the fleet. Towards the latter end of June they arrived at the place of their destination, which was the harbour of Chebuctou, on the sea-coast of the peninsula, about midway between Cape Canceau and Cape Sable. It is one of the most secure and commodious havens in the world, and well situated for the fishery; but the climate is cold, and the soil barren.

Governor Cornwallis no sooner arrived in this harbour, than he was joined by two regiments of infantry from Cape Breton, a company of rangers from Annapolis. He then pitched upon a spot for the settlement, and employed his people in clearing the ground, in order to lay the foundations of a town; but some inconveniencies being discovered in the situation, he chose one more to the northward, hard by the harbour, on an easy ascent, that commands a prospect of the whole peninsula, and is well supplied with rivulets of fresh and wholesome water. Here, on a regular plan, he began to build a town, to which he gave the name of Halifax, in honour of the nobleman who had the greatest share in founding the colony; and, before the approach of winter, above three hundred comfortable wooden houses were built, the whole being surrounded by a strong pallisade.

The establishment of such a powerful colony in Nova Scotia, could not fail giving umbrage to the French in that neighbourhood, who, though they did not think proper to promulgate their jealousy and disgust, nevertheless employed their emissaries clandestinely in stimulating and exciting the Indians to harass the colonists with hostilities, in such a manner as should effectually hinder them from extending their plantations, and perhaps induce them to abandon the settlement. Nor was this the only part of America in which the French court countenanced such perfidious practices.

practices. More than ever convinced of the importance of a considerable navy, and an extensive plantation trade, they not only exerted uncommon industry in re-establishing their marine, which had suffered so severely during the war; but they resolved, if possible, to extend their plantations in the West-Indies, by settling the neutral islands. In the beginning of the year the governor of Barbadoes, having received intelligence that the French had begun to settle in the island of Tobago, sent Captain Tyrrel thither in a frigate, to learn the particulars. That officer found above three hundred men already landed, secured by two batteries and two ships of war, and in daily expectation of a further reinforcement from the Marquis de Caylus, governor of Martinique; who had published an ordonnance, authorising the subjects of the French king to settle the island of Tobago, and promising to defend them from the attempts of all their enemies. This assurance was in answer to a proclamation issued by Mr. Grenville, governor of Barbadoes, and stuck up in different parts of the island, commanding all the inhabitants to remove within thirty days, on pain of undergoing military execution. Captain Tyrrel, with a spirit that became a commander in the British navy, gave the French officers to understand, that his most christian majesty had no right to settle the island, which was declared neutral by treaties; and that, if they would not desist, he should be obliged to employ force in driving them from their new settlement. Night coming on, Mr. Tyrrel's ship falling to leeward, the French captains seized that opportunity of sailing to Martinique; and next day the English commander returned to Barbadoes, having no power to commit hostilities. These tidings, with a copy of the French governor's ordonnance, were no sooner transmitted to the ministry, than they dispatched a courier to the English envoy at Paris, with directions to make representations to the

court of Versailles on this subject. The ministry of France, knowing they were in no condition to support the consequences of an immediate rupture, and understanding how much the merchants and people of Great Britain were alarmed and incensed at their attempts to possess these islands, thought proper to disown the proceedings of the Marquis de Caylus, and to grant the satisfaction that was demanded, by sending him orders to discontinue the settlement, and evacuate the island of Tobago. At the same time, however, that the court of Versailles made this sacrifice for the satisfaction of England, the Marquis de Phieux, the French minister, observed to the English resident, that France was undoubtedly in possession of that island towards the middle of the last century. He ought in candour to have added, that although Louis XIV. made a conquest of this island from the Hollanders, during his war with that republic, it was restored to them by the treaty of Nimeguen; and since that time France could not have the least shadow of a claim to number it among her settlements.

Among those princes and powers who excepted against different articles of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Chevalier de St. George, foreseeing that none of the plenipotentiaries would receive his protest, employed his agents to fix it up in the public places of Aix-la-Chapelle; a precaution of very little service to his cause, which all the states in Christendom seemed now to have abandoned. So little was the interest of his family considered in this negotiation, that the contracting powers agreed, without reserve, to the literal insertion of the fifth article of the quadruple alliance; by which it was stipulated, that neither the pretender nor any of his descendants should be allowed to reside within the territories belonging to any of the subscribing parties. At the same time the plenipotentiaries of France promised to those of Great Britain, that Prince Charles Edward should be immediately

mediately obliged to quit the dominions of his most christian majesty. Notice of this agreement was accordingly given by the court of Versailles to the young adventurer: and, as he had declared he would never return to Italy, Monsieur de Courteille, the French envoy to the Cantons of Swisserland, was directed by his sovereign to demand an asyllum for Prince Edward in the city of Fribourg. The regency having complied in this particular, Mr. Burnaby, the British minister to the Helvetic body, took the alarm, and presented a remonstrance, couched in such terms as gave offence to that regency, and drew upon him a severe answer. In vain had the French king exerted his influence in procuring this retreat for the young pretender, who, being pressed with repeated messages to withdraw, persisted in refusing to quit the place, to which he had been so cordially invited by his cousin the King of France; and where he said that monarch had solemnly promised, on the word of a king, that he would never forsake him in his distress, nor abandon the interests of his family. Louis was not a little perplexed at this obstinacy of Prince Edward, which was the more vexatious, as that youth appeared to be the darling of the Parisians; who not only admired him for his own accomplishments, and pitied him for his sufferings, but also revered him, as a young hero lineally descended from their renowned Henry IV. At length, the two English noblemen arriving at Paris, as hostages for the performance of the treaty, and seeing him appear at all public places of diversion, complained of this circumstance, as an insult to their sovereign, and an infringement of the treaty so lately concluded. The French king, after some hesitation between punctilio and convenience, resolved to employ violence upon the person of this troublesome stranger, since milder remonstrances had not been able to influence his conduct: but this resolution was not taken till the return of a courier whom he dispatched

patched to the Chevalier de St. George; who, being thus informed of his son's deportment, wrote a letter to him, laying strong injunctions upon him, to yield to the necessity of the times, and acquiesce with a good grace to the stipulations which his cousin of France had found it necessary to subscribe, for the interest of his realm. Edward, far from complying with this advice and injunction, signified his resolution to remain in Paris; and even declared, that he would pistol any man who should presume to lay violent hands on his person. In consequence of this bold declaration, it was determined to arrest him without further delay; and that same evening, the prince entering the narrow lane that leads to the opera, the barrier was immediately shut, and the serjeant of the guard called "To arms;" on which Monsieur de Vaudreuil, exempt of the French guards, advancing to Edward, "Prince (said he,) I arrest you in the king's name, by virtue of this order." At that instant the youth was surrounded by four grenadiers, in order to prevent any mischief he might have done with a case of pocket pistols, which he always carried about him; and a guard was placed at all the avenues and doors of the opera-house, lest any tumult should have ensued among the populace. These precautions being taken, Vaudreuil, with an escorte, conducted the prisoner through the garden of the palais royal to a house where the Duke de Biron waited with a coach and six to convey him to the castle of Vincennes, whither he was immediately accompanied by a detachment from the regiment of French guards, under the command of that nobleman. He had not remained above three days in this confinement when he gave the French ministry to understand, that he would conform himself to the king's intentions; and was immediately enlarged, upon giving his word and honour, that he would, without delay, retire from the dominions of France. Accordingly, he set out in four days from Fontainebleau,

Fontainebleau, attended by three officers, who conducted him as far as Pont Beauvoisin on the frontiers, where they took their leave of him, and returned to Versailles. He proceeded for some time in the road to Chamberri; but soon returned into the French dominions, and, passing through Dauphiné, repaired to Avignon, where he was received with extraordinary honours by the pope's legate.

Although peace was now re-established among the principal powers of the continent, yet another storm seemed ready to burst upon the northern parts of Europe, in a fresh rupture between Russia and Sweden. Whether the czarina had actually obtained information that the French faction meditated some revolution of the government of Stockholm, or she wanted a pretence for annexing Finland to her empire; certain it is, she affected to apprehend that the prince successor of Sweden waited only for the decease of the reigning king, who was very old and infirm, to change the form of government, and resume that absolute authority which some of the monarchs, his predecessors, had enjoyed. She seemed to think that a prince thus vested with arbitrary power, and guided by the councils of France and Prussia, with which Sweden had lately engaged in close alliance, might become a very troublesome and dangerous neighbour to her in the Baltic: she, therefore, recruited her armies, repaired her fortifications, filled her magazines, ordered a strong body of troops to advance towards the frontiers of Finland, and declared in plain terms to the court of Stockholm, that if any step should be taken to alter the government, which she had bound herself by treaty to maintain, her troops should enter the territory of Sweden, and she would act up to the spirit of her engagements. The Swedish ministry, alarmed at these peremptory proceedings, had recourse to their allies; and, in the mean time, made repeated declarations to the court of Petersburg, that there was no design to
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make the least innovation in the nature of their established government: but, little or no regard being paid to these representations, they began to put the kingdom in a posture of defence; and the old king gave the czarina to understand, that if, notwithstanding the satisfaction he had offered, her forces should pass the frontiers of Finland, he would consider their march as an hostile invasion, and employ the means which God had put in his power for the defence of his dominions. This declaration, in all probability, did not produce such effect as the interposition of his Prussian majesty, the most enterprising prince of his time, at the head of one hundred and forty thousand of the best troops that Germany ever trained. Perhaps he was not sorry that the Empress of Muscovy furnished him with a plausible pretence for maintaining such a formidable army, after the peace of Europe had been ascertained by a formal treaty, and all the surrounding states had diminished the number of their forces. He now wrote a letter to his uncle the King of Great Britain, complaining of the insults and menaces which had been offered by the czarina to Sweden; declaring, that he was bound by a defensive alliance, to which France had acceded, to defend the government at present established in Sweden; and that he would not sit still, and tamely see that kingdom attacked by any power whatsoever, without acting up to his engagements: he therefore entreated his Britanic majesty to interpose his good offices, in conjunction with France and him, to compromise the disputes which threatened to embroil the northern parts of Europe. By this time the Russian army had approached the frontiers of Finland: the Swedes had assembled their troops, replenished their magazines, and repaired their marine; and the King of Denmark, jealous of the czarina's designs with regard to the duchy of Sleswick, which was contested with him by the prince successor of Russia, kept his army and navy on

on the most respectable footing. At this critical juncture the courts of London, Versailles, and Berlin, co-operated so effectually by remonstrances and declarations at Petersburg and Stockholm, that the Empress of Russia thought proper to own herself satisfied, and all those clouds of trouble were immediately dispersed. Yet, in all probability, her real aim was disappointed; and, however she might dissemble her sentiments, she never heartily forgave the King of Prussia for the share he had in this transaction.

Nor did the French ministry neglect any measure that might contribute to repair the damage which the kingdom had sustained in the course of the war. One half of the army was disbanded: the severe imposition of the tenth penny was suspended by the king's edict: a scheme of economy was proposed, with respect to the finances; and the utmost diligence used in procuring materials, as well as workmen, for ship-building, that the navy of France might speedily retrieve its former importance. At Vienna, the empress queen was not more solicitous in promoting the trade and internal manufactures of her dominions, by sumptuary regulations, necessary restrictions on foreign superfluities, by opening her ports in the Adriatic, and giving proper encouragement to commerce, than she was careful and provident in reforming the economy of her finances, maintaining a respectable body of forces, and guarding by defensive alliances, against the enterprises of his Prussian majesty, on whose military power she looked with jealousy and distrust. The King of Spain, sincerely disposed to cultivate the arts of peace, and encourage every measure that could contribute to the advantage of his country, was no sooner released from the embarrassments of war, than he began to execute plans of internal economy; to reduce unnecessary pensions, discharge the debts contracted in the war, replenish his arsenals, augment his navy, promote manufactures, and encourage an ac-

tive commerce by sea, the benefits of which the kingdom of Spain had not known since the first discovery and conquest of the West-Indies.

The preparations for refitting and increasing the navy of Spain were carried on with such extraordinary vigour, that other nations believed an expedition was intended against the corsairs of Algiers, who had for some time grievously infested the trade and coasts of the Mediterranean. The existence of this and other predatory republics, which entirely subsist upon piracy and rapine, petty states of barbarous ruffians, maintained, as it were, in the midst of powerful nations, which they insult with impunity, and of which they even exact an annual contribution, is a flagrant reproach upon Christendom; a reproach the greater, as it is founded upon a low, selfish, illiberal, maxim of policy. All the powers that border on the Mediterranean, except France and Tuscany, are at perpetual war with the Moors of Barbary, and, for that reason, obliged to employ foreign ships for the transportation of their merchandize. This employment naturally devolves on those nations whose vessels are in no danger from the depredations of the barbarians; namely, the subjects of the maritime powers, who, for this puny advantage, not only tolerate the piratical states of Barbary, but even supply them with arms and ammunition, solicit their passes, and purchase their forbearance with annual presents, which are, in effect, equivalent to a tribute: whereas, by one vigorous exertion of their power, they might destroy all their ships, lay their towns in ashes, and totally extirpate those pernicious broods of desperate banditti.—Even all the condescension of those who disgrace themselves with the title of allies to these miscreants is not always sufficient to restrain them from acts of cruelty and rapine. At this very period four cruisers from Algiers fell in with the Prince Frederic packet-boat, bound from Lisbon to Falmouth, which they detained under the
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frivolous pretext, that the captain named in the commission was not on board, and that the money and diamonds with which she was freighted belonged to Jews. They therefore carried her into Algiers, where they plundered her of all the effects on-board, estimated at 100,000*l.* and detained the vessel twenty-three days; after which they suffered her to proceed on her voyage, and she arrived at Falmouth on the 7th of May, 1749. This outrage occasioned seven ships of war to be fitted out immediately, the command of which was given to Commodore Keppel, who took on-board certain presents to the dey, the forwarding of which had been neglected, and which that prince, having been long accustomed to receive, laid claim to by prescription: the commodore was likewise charged with a letter from the secretary of state, demanding restitution of the effects which had been thus seized. Mr. Keppel arrived there the beginning of August, and in an audience of the dey made known the purport of his embassy. The mussulman accepted the presents; but declared himself unable to make the required restitution, as the property in question was now dispersed among individuals, from whom it could by no means be collected. The commodore, finding he could obtain no answer more satisfactory, proceeded to Port Mahon, from whence he dispatched the *Tryal* sloop, for further instructions from the admiralty; but the times were now changed, since the insolence of these lawless free-booters used to be chastised by the intrepidity of Englishmen. Government thought fit to pals by the affront, and received an ambassador from the Algerines, when as guardians of the nation's honour, they should have directed the brave officer whom they had deputed, to lay Algiers in ashes.

This transaction was succeeded by another injurious affront, offered by the governor or alcaide of Tetuan to Mr. Latton, an English ambassador, sent

thither to redeem the British subjects who had been many years enslaved in the dominions of the King of Morocco. A revolution having lately happened in this empire, Muley Abdallah, the reigning ruffian, insisted upon the ambassador's paying a pretended balance for the ransom of the captives, as well as depositing a considerable sum, which had already been paid to a deceased bashaw; alleging, that, as he (the emperor) received no part of it, the payment was illegal. Mr. Latton refusing to comply with this arbitrary demand, his house was surrounded by a detachment of soldiers, who violently dragged his secretary from his presence, and threw him into a dismal subterraneous dungeon, where he continued twenty days. The English slaves, to the number of twenty-seven, were condemned to the same fate; the ambassador himself was degraded from his character, deprived of his allowance, and sequestered from all communication. All the letters directed to him were intercepted, and interpreted to the alcaide: two negro porters were entrusted with the keys of all his apartments, and a couple of soldiers posted at his chamber door: nay, this Moorish governor threatened to load him with irons, and violently seized part of the presents designed by his Britannic majesty for the emperor. At length, finding that neither Mr. Latton nor the governor of Gibraltar, to whom he had written, would deposit the money, without fresh instructions from the court of London, the barbarian thought proper to relax in his severity: the prisoners were enlarged, the restrictions removed from the person of the ambassador; and, after all these indignities offered to the honour of the British nation, the balance was paid, and the affair quietly adjusted.

Notwithstanding the parliament did not rise until the 13th of June, yet it met again on the 16th of November; ten thousand seamen were voted for the service of the year 1750; and the land-force was
continued

continued at eighteen thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven. The sums granted for making good his majesty's engagements with the Elector of Bavaria and Mentz, and the Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbüttele, amounted to 53,225*l.* sterling. The services done by the colonies in North America, during the war, were gratified with the sum of 122,246*l.* The expence incurred by the new colony of Nova Scotia exceeded 76,000*l.* A small sum was voted for the improvement of Georgia, and 10,000*l.* were granted towards the support of the British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa. The sum total granted in this session arose to 4,141,661*l.* *gs.* 11½*d.*

The capital measure which distinguished this session of parliament was the reduction of the interest on the public funds; a scheme which was planned and executed by the minister, without any national disturbance or disquiet, to the astonishment of all Europe; the different nations of which could not comprehend how it would be possible for the government, at the close of a long expensive war, which had so considerably drained the country, and augmented the enormous burthen of national debt, to find money for paying off such of the public creditors as might choose to receive their principal, rather than submit to a reduction of the interest. The resolutions of the commons on this head, were printed by authority in the London Gazette, signifying, that those who were, or should be, proprietors of any part of the public debt, redeemable by law, incurred before Michaelmas, 1749, carrying an interest of four per cent. per annum, who should, on or before the 28th of February, in that year, subscribe their name, signifying their consent to accept of an interest of three per cent. to commence from the 25th of December, 1757, should continue to receive 4 per cent. until the 25th of December, 1750, and from thence 3½ per cent. until the 25th of December, 1757. When the act was passed, and public notice

notice thereof given, the greater part of the public creditors assented to the terms proposed. The market price of the public funds at that time being so much above par, as to make it more the interest of the stockholder to continue his property there, than to receive from government no more than the principal money first advanced. The three companies of the Bank, East-India, and South-Sea, however, would not subscribe; and, when the account of the sums which had been subscribed was delivered into the house of commons in March following, it appeared that between eight and nine millions were not subscribed, besides the debts due to the three great companies in their corporate capacity. The minister, previous to the setting on foot this plan, had guarded against the consequences that might arise from the restive humour of the stock-holders, by having obtained from the monied men of the nation, assurances of their assistance to any amount that, considering the real value that money then bore, could possibly be required; so that he was provided with the means of paying off such non-subscribers, by creating new loans on the terms which had been rejected by the present creditors. But this ability he was not willing to exert. He rather chose to allow farther time to such as had neglected to close with the first offer; but, that they might in some measure suffer by their contumacy, the interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum was proposed to be paid to these second set of subscribers no longer than the 25th of December, 1755. To afford them an opportunity of doing which, subscriptions were received until the 30th of May, 1750. Thus the second subscribers had a reduction of their interest from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. two years sooner than those of the first subscription. Such as remained finally determined not to subscribe, had their principal money paid out of the sinking-fund. The act of parliament which authorised this step, contained a clause which empowered the East-India company,

pany, in case they subscribed all their stock within the time limited, to borrow any sum not exceeding 4,200,000*l.* by sale of annuities, viz. 3,200,000*l.* after the several rates of interests in the terms of this second subscription, and 1,000,000*l.* more at 3 per cent. The three companies at length reluctantly acquiesced in a measure, which by opposing they would have sustained a considerable loss, without preventing the regulation taking place. It was a trial of strength between the minister and those great commercial bodies, which the wants of government had first given existence to.

The mutiny-bill for the ensuing year was mitigated with an essential alteration, relating to the oath of secrecy imposed upon the members of every court-martial, who were now released from this reserve, if required to give evidence by due course of law in any court of judicature; and whereas, by the former mutiny-bill, a general was empowered to order the revival of any sentence, by a court-martial, as often as he pleased, and, on that pretence, to keep in confinement a man who had been acquitted upon a fair trial, it was now enacted, that no sentence pronounced by any court-martial, and signed by the president, should be more than once liable to revival. Colonel George Townshend, son of Lord Viscount Townshend, who had equally distinguished himself by his civil and military accomplishments, proposed another clause, for preventing any non-commissioned officer being broke or reduced into the ranks, or any soldier being punished, but by the sentence of a court-martial. He gave the house to understand, that certain persons attended at the door, who, from the station of non-commissioned officers, had been broke, and reduced into the ranks, without trial, or any cause assigned; and he expatiated not only upon the iniquity of such proceedings, but also upon the danger of leaving such arbitrary power in the hands of any individual officer.

A warm

A warm debate was the consequence of this motion, which, however, was over-ruled by the majority.

On the 5th of October, 1750, a treaty was concluded at Madrid, between Great Britain and Spain, by which the right of the South-Sea company in the *asiento* treaty for four years was given up. The sum of 100,000*l.* was agreed to be paid by the King of Spain, as a compensation to the company for their losses, and as a full balance of all accounts. The duties to be paid by British subjects in the ports of Spain, were reduced to the rates established by Charles II. of Spain; and the English were allowed to procure salt from the island of Tortudos in the West-Indies. All British subjects residing in Spain were to be put on the same footing with the subjects of the most favoured foreign nation residing there. By this treaty a period was finally put to all foreign commerce whatever, of the South-Sea company.

The northern American colonies were enabled to set on foot a new branch of commerce, by an act of parliament now passed to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from his majesty's colonies in America; but they were prohibited by the same act from erecting any mill or other engine for *slitting* or rolling of iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making of steel. The nation derived great advantages by this encouragement given to the colonies: before the passing of this law, iron used to be purchased from Sweden on very high terms, and for which ready money was paid; henceforth it was procured from British subjects, who in exchange received the manufactures of the mother country.

The trade to the coast of Guinea engaged the attention of the legislature. The trade was originally monopolized by a joint-stock company, which had from time to time received considerable sums from parliament to enable them to maintain fortifications on the

the coast of Africa, in order to protect the commerce carried on there; it was now thought necessary to lay open that trade for all British subjects, and that the forts and settlements on that extensive coast should be kept up at the public expence; but that all such as trade to or from the coast of Africa, from Cape Blanco quite to the Cape of Good Hope, should be considered as a body-corporate, though not trading in their corporate capacity, not having any joint or transferable stock, nor the privilege of borrowing money on their common seal. The direction of the affairs of this new company was entrusted to a committee of nine persons, annually chosen, who were to meet in the city of London; the majority of whom had a power given them to make orders for the governing and improving the forts, factories, &c. but they were restricted from interfering with the trade or traders. All such as designed to trade to Africa were to pay forty shillings to the chamberlain of London, for an admission into the freedom of this company, and every individual thus admitted had a right to vote for three persons, who were to compose the committee for London; the like fine was required from every Bristol trader, and these traders also chose three committee-men; and the same regulation was made for Liverpool. This committee was to be chosen annually. The money arising from these fines to be applied to the discharge of the wages, salaries, &c. of the officers employed in the settlements, and to the preservation of the forts. The accounts of the manner in which the money so arising was disposed of, were to be regularly kept in London, and subject to the inspection of any member of the company. The conduct of this body of men was subject to the superintendency of the commissioners of trade and plantations. The committee was authorized to deduct annually eight hundred pounds for defraying the salaries of their clerks, at the three ports of London, Bristol,

and Liverpool, and all other incidental expences, and whatever surplus remained of that sum, after all charges were defrayed, the committee were empowered to divide among themselves, as a compensation for their trouble. Soon after these regulations took place, the British parliament voted to the old royal African company the sum of 112,142l. 2s. 3d. as a compensation for their charter, lands, forts, slaves, stores, and other effects.

In the year 1751, died Frederic prince of Wales, his present majesty's father. His royal highness, in consequence of a cold caught in his garden at Kew, was seized with a pleuritic disorder; and, after a short illness, expired on the 20th of March.

The most remarkable act which passed in the session of 1751, was that of regulating throughout Great Britain and the dominions subject to the British crown, the commencement of the year, and for correcting the calendar according to the Gregorian computation, which had been adopted by all the other nations of Europe. By this law it was decreed, that the new year should begin on the first of January, and that eleven intermediate nominal days, between the 2d and 14th days of September 1752, should in that year be omitted, so that the day succeeding the 2d should be denominated the 14th of that month. The Julian calendar, or old style, supposed the tropical year to consist of three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours. In the year 1582, Gregory XIII. the then pope, by the help of the best astronomers, discovered the error in this calculation, which was eleven minutes and five seconds more than the exact time. It appeared that in one hundred and twenty-nine years and three hundred and thirty-seven days and a half it made an error of one whole day, and in four hundred Julian years, an error of three days, one hour, fifty-three minutes, and twenty seconds. Since the time of the council of Nice, in the year 325, to the year

1701, the old style was computed to have occasioned an error of eleven days, by which the vernal equinox appeared to happen eleven days sooner than by the N. S. it really does, so that the 10th of March was more properly the 21st. The object with the pontiff, in rectifying this error, was to settle the true time for celebrating the feast of Easter; but the chief view of the British legislature in making this innovation, was to derive mercantile benefits therefrom; the difference of eleven days frequently occasioning errors and mistakes in business; and as the legal year began on the 25th of March, a whole year was frequently mistaken, through inadvertency in our chronological histories. The year from thenceforth was appointed to commence on the 1st of January, with all the rest of Christendom.

In the beginning of March, 1754, died Mr. Pelham; his loss was not only felt by his sovereign, but by the nation in general. This minister was so fortunate as to preserve the public good opinion, even while he pursued measures which were not entirely approved. The loss of such a head was the more deeply felt at this juncture, being the eve of a general election for a new parliament, when every administration is supposed to exert itself with redoubled vigilance and circumspection. He had already concerted the measures for securing a majority, and his plan was faithfully executed by his friends and adherents, who continued to engross the administration. His brother, the Duke of Newcastle, was appointed first lord commissioner of the treasury, and was succeeded as secretary of state by Sir Thomas Robinson, who had long resided as ambassador at the court of Vienna.

I N D E X.

- A**CHMET, grand signior, deposed, 111.
- A**FRICAN COMPANY, regulated by parliament, 440.
- AIX-LA-CHAPELLE**, treaty of peace signed there, 415.
- ALBERONI**, the Spanish minister, his conduct to Col. Stanhope, 37; his designs against England, 40; disgraced, 56.
- ALGERINES** take and plunder an English packet-boat, 434.
- AMBROSE**, Captain, his bravery. 222; receives presents from the London and Bristol merchants. 224; takes a Spanish register ship, 318.
- AMERICA**, proceeding relating to the proprietary governments there, 83; allowed to send iron to England, but not to manufacture it, 440.
- ANSON**, Commodore, preparations for his expedition, 174; his return, and a short account of his success, 286; defeats the French, 382; created a peer, 386.
- ASSURANCE COMPANIES**, Royal Exchange and London, 89.
- BALCHEN**, Sir John, commands a fleet in the channel, 287; lost in the Victory, 288.
- BALMERINO**, Kilmarnock, and Lovat, Lords, tried and beheaded for rebellion, 341, 342.
- BANK** of England, acts relating to. 62, 234.
- BARLOW**, Captain, his unfortunate expedition, 88.
- BARNEY**, Commodore, attacks the French. 222; fails for the East-Indies, 314; takes some rich French ships, 315; dies, 358.
- BARRINGTON**, Hon. Capt. in the Bellona, takes a French Indiaman, 395.
- BATTLES**.—Of Dumblain, 12; of Belgrade, 31; off Cape Passaro, 40; of Parma, 134; of Guastalla, 135; of Motwitz, 226; of Cresslaw, 235, of Dettingen, 257; off Toulon, 274; of Fontenoy, 304; of Preston Pans, 324; of Falkirk, 332; of Culloden, 335; of Rocrou. 348; in the East-Indies, 358; of Laffelt, 374; off Cape Finisterre, 383; between Admiral Hawke and the French, 588; in the West-Indies, 405.
- BAVARIA**, Charles elector of, chosen Emperor of Germany by the name of Charles VII. 234; makes a convention with the Queen of Hungary, 254; dies, 299; his son Maximilian resigns his pretensions to the empire to preserve his electorate, 300.
- BELGRADE**, siege and battle of, 30.
- BELLEISLE**, Marshal, and his brother, taken prisoners, 298; the count is killed, 380.
- BERWICK**, (Stuart,) Duke of, killed at Philippsburg, 132.
- BOLINGBROKE**, Lord, his estate restored, 70.
- BOSCAWEN**, Captain, a volunteer in the expedition against Porto Bello, 184; commands a body of seamen who attack a Spanish fort, 207; commands the Namur in the action off Cape Finisterre, 383; wounded, 385; (Rear-admiral.) his expedition to the East-Indies, 394; attacks the Mauritius, 409; besieges Pondicherry, 410.
- BOURDONNOIS**, M. his power in India, 358; takes Madras from the English, and agrees for its ransom, 362.
- BUCCANEERS**, or freebooters, measures for suppressing them, 26, 45; finally exterminated, 67.
- BYNG**, Sir George, sent with a fleet to the Baltic, 24; sent into the Mediterranean, 36; defeats the Spanish fleet off Cape Passaro, 40; reduces the island of Sicily, 48; made treasurer of the navy, rear-admiral of Great Britain, a peer, and a knight of the Bath, 50.
- CAROLINE**, Queen, consort of George II. patronises Sir R. Walpole, and why, 91; made regent in the absence of the king, 105; dies, 151.
- CARLOS**, of Spain, succeeds to the duchy of Parma, 113; proclaimed King of Naples, 133; and of Sicily, 140.
- CARTHAGENA** described, 204; attacked by Admiral Vernon, 190, 206, 209.
- CHARITABLE** Corporation, 116.

- CHEROKEE chiefs in England, 110.
 COBHAM, *Ld.* lands near *Vigo*, 51; takes the town, 52; returns to England, 53.
 COIGNY, *Marshal*, defeats the Austrians at *Parma*, 134.
 COLCHESTER, of 54 guns, lost, 289.
 COMPTON, *Sir Spencer*, afterwards *Lord Wilmington*, 96.
 CONFLANS, *French admiral*, takes the *Northumberland*, 290; escapes from a squadron under *Mitchell*, 565; takes the *Severn*, 367.
 COPE, *Sir John*, marches against the pretender, 322; is defeated at *Preston Pans*, 323.
 CORNWALL, *Captain*, his bravery, and death, 277, 282.
 CORPORATION for relieving officers widows, 119.
 CUMBERLAND, *Duke of*, wounded at *Dettingen*, 258; defeated at *Fontenoy*, 304; recovers *Carlisle*, 331; assumes the command in Scotland, 334; gains the battle of *Culloden*, 335; gets an addition of 25,000*l.* a year to his revenue, 338; his behaviour in Scotland after the battle, 338, 339; defeated at *Laffelt*, 374.
 DANTZIC, siege of, 131.
 DELGARNO, *Captain*, takes a *Barbary corsair*, 22; takes a *Spanish packet*, 50.
 DENT, *Captain*, his rash courage, 404.
 DERWENTWATER, *Earl*, proclaims the pretender, 13; surrenders with his whole party at *Preston*, 15; beheaded, 17.
 DETTINGEN, battle of, 257.
 EAST-INDIA Company's charter renewed, 91; their time of exclusive trade extended, 109.
 EUGENE, *Prince*, his death, 143.
 FLAMBOROUGH man of war takes some rich prizes, 318.
 FOG, *Commodore*, takes some *French merchantmen*, 387; is tried by a court-martial, 392; afterwards promoted, 393.
 FRANKFORT, treaty of, 292.
 FREDERIC II. *King of Prussia*, attacks *Silesia*, 198, 225; gains the battle of *Molwitz*, 226; and of *Czastaw*, 235; treaty with the *Queen of Hungary* at *Breslaw*, 236; with the emperor at *Frankfort*, 292; invades *Bohemia*, 295; defeats the Austrians and Saxons at *Striegau* and *Sohr*, 301; makes a treaty with *Great Britain* at *Dresden*, 302; invades *Saxony*, gains a battle at *Pirna*, and makes peace with the *Hungarians* and *Saxons*, 303.
 FREDERIC, *Prince*, son of *George II.* arrives from *Hanover*, and is created *Prince of Wales*, 103; marries the *Princess of Saxe Gotha*, 140; motion for a settlement on him, 144; breach between him and the king, 150; his adherents join the opposition, 159; reconciled to the king, 233; his death, 442.
 FULLERTON, *Captain*, his bravery, 128.
 GARDENER, *Col.* his death at *Preston Pans*, 324.
 GENOA taken by the *Germans*, 349; who are soon after expelled, 350; besieged, and again abandoned by the *Austrians*, 379.
 GEORGE I. ascends the throne on the death of *Queen Anne*, 3; his age and character, 4; supports the whigs, 5; refuses to pardon the rebel lords, 17; makes a treaty with the regent of *France*, 22; blamed for his conduct with the *Swedes*, 23; declares war against *Spain*, 45; makes peace with *Sweden*, 54; concludes a defensive alliance with *France* and *Prussia*, 71; exposed to a dreadful tempest, 72; takes some *Swedes* into pay, and strengthens himself by fresh alliances, 78; his death and character, 79.
 GEORGE II. state of politics at his accession, 93; behaviour relative to the late king's will, 99; crowned at *Westminster*, 101; his displeasure at the *Prince of Wales*, 150; difference with *Denmark*, and convention with *Spain*, 157; declares war against *Spain*, 171; gains the battle of *Dettingen*, 257; declares war against *France*, 272; changes his ministers, 298; more changes, 343; peace concluded at *Aix-la-Chapelle*, 415; interposes between *Russia* and *Sweden*, 431; insults offered to his subjects by the *Moors*, 435.
 GIBRALTAR besieged by the *Spaniards*, 77, 78; the siege raised, 79.

- GLORIOSO**, a Spanish register ship, repeatedly attacked, 393; at length taken, 394.
- GRENVILLE**, Captain Thomas, of the *Defiance*, killed in the action off Cape Finisterre, 385.
- GRIFFIN**, Commodore, arrives in the East-Indies, 364; his conduct, 408.
- HADDOCK**, (Rear-admiral,) commands in the Mediterranean, 221; prevented from attacking the Spanish fleet, 222; quits his command, 141.
- HARD** frost in 1739-40, 186.
- HARDY**, Sir Charles, blocked up at Lisbon, 287; joins Sir John Balchen, 288.
- HAWKE**, Captain Edward, commands the *Berwick*, and takes the *Poder*, a Spanish ship of the line, 279; (Rear-admiral,) defeats the French, 388; made a knight of the Bath, 391.
- HAWLEY**, General, worried at Falkirk, 332.
- HIGHLANDERS**, their disaffection, and its cause, 319, 320; ancient customs, 322; abolished, 371.
- HOSIER**, Rear-admiral, commands in the West-Indies, 76; dies there, 77.
- HUNGARY**, Queen of, her dominions invaded by Prussia, 189, 225; her distresses, and the fidelity of her subjects, 229, 230; convention with Frederic, at Breslaw, 236; her successes, 253.
- HURRICANE** at Jamaica, 90.
- JENKINS**, Captain, his treatment by the Spaniards, 167.
- JENNINGS**, Sir John, cruises off the coast of Spain, 75.
- IMPORTS** and **EXPORTS** from the North in 1716, 85.
- INOCULATION** brought into England, 93.
- INTEREST** reduced, 86, 92, 437.
- IRELAND**, powers of its parliament restrained, 55.
- KNOWLES**, Captain, of the *Diamond*, joins Adm. Vernon in the West-Indies, 184; ordered to cruise before Carthage, 185; attacks the castle of St. Lorenzo, 192; which he takes, and is appointed governor of it, 193; commands a body of seamen in attacking Bocca Chica, 210; storms the fort of St. Joseph, and takes the Galicia, 211; attacks La Guira, 261; and Porto Cavallo, 262; returns to Jamaica, 264; (Rear-admiral,) attacks St. Domingo, and Cuba, 402; defeats the Spaniards near the Havannah, 405.
- LATTON**, Mr. indignities offered to him at Tetuan in Morocco, 435.
- LESTOCK**, Commodore, succeeds Haddock in the command of the Mediterranean fleet, 141; made rear-admiral under Matthews, 242; suspended by Matthews for his behaviour at Toulon, 283; acquitted by a court-martial, 284; commands a fleet against Port l'Orient, 351; abandons the enterprize and returns home, 357.
- LITERATURE**, state of, at the death of George I. 81.
- LOUIS XV.** King of France, war declared between him and England, 272; his dangerous illness, 294; takes Friburgh, 296; defeats the confederates at Fontenoy, Rocrou, and Laffelt, 304, 348, 374.
- LOUISEBOURG** taken by Sir Peter Warren, 305-311.
- LOWENDAL**, Count, commanding under Count Saxe, takes Sluys, 372; and Hullst, 373; besieges Bergen-op-zoom, 378; takes it by assault, 378.
- MADRAS**, described, 359; surrendered to the French, 362.
- MAESTRICHT**, how situated at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, 400.
- MAR**, Earl of, proclaims the pretender, 11.
- MARTIN**, Commodore, compels the King of Sardinia to preserve the neutrality, 243; destroys some magazines at St. Remo, 244.
- MATTHEWS**, Admiral, commands in the Mediterranean, 242, 265; ill seconded by his captains in the action off Toulon, 275; his intrepidity, 278; prevents Lestock from pursuing the enemy, 281; sentence of the court-martial on him for fighting, and on Lestock for not fighting, 284; his case compared with that of Captain Fox, 393.
- MEDLEY**, Rear-admiral, attacks the coast of Genoa, and bombards St. Remo, 317; (Vice-admiral,) assists the Austrian general at the siege of Antibes, 367; dies, 393.

- MITCHEL**, Commodore, his misconduct in the West-Indies, 365; takes the command there on the death of Admiral Davers, 366; superseded, and tried by a court-martial, *ibid*.
- MUTINY-BILLS** for army and navy, 420, 421, 439.
- NAMUR** taken by the French, 348.
- NAVAL** and commercial regulations during the reign of George I. 82.
- NAVARRO**, the Spanish admiral, engages the British fleet under Matthews and Lestock, 274; wounded, 282; complains of De Court, the French admiral, 285.
- NORRIS**, Sir John, sent with a fleet into the Baltic, 7; again sent to the Baltic to assist the Swedes against the czar, 54, 65, 68; sent to Lisbon to protect the Portuguese, 138; sent against the Spaniards, 224; commands the channel fleet to oppose the landing of the pretender, 271.
- NORTESK**, Lord, commander of the Loo, his gallant actions, 244.
- NORTHUMBERLAND** and three smaller ships taken by the French, 290.
- NOVA SCOTIA**, settlement at, 423.
- OGLE**, Captain, of the Swallow, subdues a large party of buccaneers, 67; (Sir Chaloner,) commands a fleet for the West-Indies, 188; arrives at Jamaica, 203; invested with the supreme command, 249.
- OGLETHORPE**, General, repels the Spaniards in their attack upon Georgia, 249.
- ORLEANS**, Duke of, regent of France, declares war against Spain, 47; dies, 69.
- OXFORD**, Earl of, impeached, 10; tried and acquitted, 24, 25.
- PANAMA**, fruitless attempt against, by Vernon and Wentworth, 248.
- PELHAM**, Mr. resigns, but is soon reinstated, 343; reduces the interest on the public funds, 437; dies, 443.
- PEYTON**, Captain, succeeds Commodore Barnet in the East-Indies, 358; abandons Madras, 359.
- PHILIP V.** King of Spain, resigns his crown, 69; resumes it on the death of his son, 70.
- PITT**, Mr. William, opposes the seamen's bill, 196; appointed paymaster of the forces, 343; has a legacy of 10,000*l*. 344.
- POLAND**, troubles there on the election of a king, 124.
- PORTEOUS**, Captain John, 141; hanged at Edinburgh by the mob, 142; proceeding of the parliament relative to that affair, 147.
- PORTO BELLO**, account of, 179; taken by Vernon with six ships only, 182.
- PRAGUE** taken by the Austrians, 239.
- PRETENDER**, his supineness, 5; publishes manifestoes, 6; a rising in his favour in Scotland, 11; and in England, 13; arrives in Scotland, 15; retires, 16; forced to reside out of France, 22; his cause favoured by Russia, 73; Charles Edward, his son, returns to France, and is encouraged to make an attempt upon England, 269; the attempt fruitless, 272; embarks for Scotland, 321; where he is joined by several of the natives, 322; takes Edinburgh, 323; defeats Cope at Preston Pans, 324; reduces Carlisle, 327; penetrates as far as Derby, 328; retreats to Scotland, 330; invests Stirling castle, and defeats Hawley at Falkirk, 332; is defeated at Culloden, 335; wanders about, and at length escapes to France, 337; arrested, and at length retires to Avignon, 429.
- PRINCE FREDERIC** privateer, takes two rich Spanish ships, 311.
- PRINCESSA**, a Spanish man of war, taken, 195.
- PURCEL**, Captain James, of the Pulteney, his bravery, 245.
- QUADRUPLE** alliance, 36; at length acceded to by Spain, 56.
- RATCLIFF**, Charles, titular Earl of Derwentwater, beheaded for being concerned in two rebellions, 342.
- REBELLION** in Scotland, 10-21, 319-343.
- RIOT-act** passed, 10.
- ROSE** man of war takes a rich French prize, 319.
- SALT-duty** repealed, 108; revived, 118.
- SAXE**, Count, commands the French army in the Netherlands, 293; reduces all Brabant, Flanders, and Hainault, 346.
- SAUMAREZ**, Captain, of the Nottingham, takes the Mars, 368; killed, 390.

- SAUNDERS**, Captain, of the Gloucester, with the Lark, Captain Cheap, takes a rich Spanish galleon, 368.
- SEAMEN**, bill for encouragement of, 196.
- SEPTENNIAL** act, 21; fruitless attempt to repeal it, 129.
- SHEPPARD**, James, his extraordinary case, 18.
- SILK**-throwing machine, Lambe's, 88.
- SINKING** fund, 86, 92.
- SOUTH-SEA** scheme, 56, 65; grants to the South-Sea company, 82; their effects in the West-Indies seized by the Spaniards, 87; commence a whale-fishery, 91; authorised to purchase negroes, 92; their foreign trade put an end to, 440.
- STEVENS**, Captain, in the Portland, takes the Augusta and Subtile, French ships, 367.
- STYLE** altered in England, 442.
- SUGAR**-trade engrossed by the French, 93.
- SWEDEN** disagrees with the maritime powers, 7; consequences to trade, 23, 27; dispute adjusted on the death of Charles XII. 29.
- TORRINGTON**, Byng, Lord. See **BYNG**.
- TOURNAY** besieged by the French, 303; taken after the battle of Fontenoy, 305.
- TOWNSEND**, Captain, in the Shrewsbury, gallantly sustains the fire of the Spanish forts, 206; (Vice-admiral.) attacks a French fleet off Martinico, 316.
- VERNON**, Admiral, his character, 170; sails for the West-Indies, 177; takes Porto Bello, 182; his humanity, 183, 217; attacks Carthagena, 190; takes the castle of St. Lorenzo, and the town and fort of Chagre, 193; becomes the idol of the people, 195; reinforced by a fleet under Sir Chaloner Ogle, 202; disagrees with General Wentworth, 207; retires from before Carthagena, 217; sails for Cuba; plans an attack upon Panama, 247; recalled, 248.
- VICTOR AMADEUS** King of Sardinia, resigns his crown, 105; attempts to regain it, and is put in prison by his son, 120.
- VICTORY**, the largest ship in the navy, lost, 288.
- VIGO** taken by Lord Cobham, 52; abandoned, 53.
- WAGER**, Sir Charles, commands the expedition against Portugal, 66; commands in the Baltic, 74; relieves Gibraltar, 78; proceeds to Tangier, 101; has an audience of their catholic majesties at Seville, and is presented with the king's picture, 115; conducts Don Carlos to Leghorn, *ibid*; at the head of the admiralty-board, 171.
- WALPOLE**, Sir Robert, at the head of the treasury at the accession of George II. 94; curious particulars relative to his being continued in place, 96; revives the duty on salt, 118; his excise scheme, 121; motives for avoiding a war, 153; defends his conduct relative to Spain, 163; his character, 172; curious speech on a charge of bribery, 199; created Earl of Orford, and resigns, 232.
- WALTON**, Captain, takes four Spanish men of war; his laconic epistle thereon, 41, 42; (Sir George.) commands under Wager in the Baltic, 74; (Rear-admiral.) joins Sir Charles Wager before Gibraltar, 101.
- WARREN**, Commodore, his expedition against Cape Breton, 308; (Rear-admiral.) contributes to the defeat of the French off Cape Finisterre, 332; made knight of the Bath, 386; takes several Domingo ships from the French, 387.
- WENTWORTH**, General, succeeds Lord Cathcart in the command of the forces in the West-Indies, 201; disagreement between him and Admiral Vernon, 207, 215; his conduct at Cuba, 219; plan for reducing Panama, 247; which is abandoned, and the general and the troops recalled home, 248.
- WILLIAM HENRY**, Prince of Orange, elected stadtholder, 373; his power increased, 399.

END OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.

